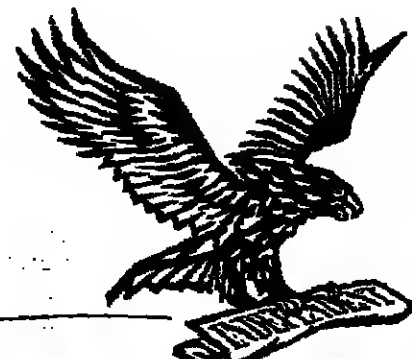


INTERVIEW
100 pages of
his challenge



Buy The Independent this Wednesday and
get our 12-page sports pull-out



Inside: Joe Klein's first
account of the agony of
being 'Anonymous' page 13

THE INDEPENDENT

3,045

MONDAY 22 JULY 1996

WEATHER Hot, hazy but breezy

40p (inc VAT)

Nursery plan drives schools to lower starting age to four



JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

The age for starting school will effectively be reduced from five to four, under plans being considered by many local authorities in response to the Government's nursery voucher scheme.

Experts in early years education are alarmed by the proposals because they fear thousands of children who are just four will be put into reception classes which are not equipped to cope with such young children.

From April next year, all

parents of four-year-olds will receive £1,100 in nursery vouchers, to be spent at state or private schools or at playgroups.

Local authorities throughout the country are reviewing their admissions policies to ensure that they receive the maximum share of voucher income.

At present, the statutory starting age for school is five, though many authorities admit some pupils before their fifth birthday.

Gillian Pugh, of the National Children's Bureau, said that while many local authorities were considering proposals to admit more four-year-olds, few

were looking at ways of changing the staffing and curriculum of reception classes.

"Everywhere else in Europe children start school at six. Now we are going to start them at four. It isn't the right way to raise standards. You don't tune four-year-olds into learning by treating them like five-year-olds," she said, arguing that there was a difference between nursery education and starting school, which many MPs had failed to grasp.

Nursery classes, for instance, require a ratio of one teacher to thirteen children, but there is no limit on reception class

numbers. Experts also point out that it is counter-productive to introduce children to formal lessons too soon.

Local authorities are considering a variety of schemes for admitting children earlier than they do at present. Hereford and Worcester, which currently admits children in the term before they are five, is consulting schools about changing its policy. A spokesman said the general feeling was that children born in the summer should start when they were just four, two terms earlier than at present, and those born in the spring would start at September

rather than Christmas, one term earlier than at present.

Bedfordshire will consult next term on ways of increasing the proportion of four-year-olds, though final decisions will be left to individual schools. Keith Fossey, the council's education manager, said: "We have to be sure we get back the voucher money for the four-year-olds already in school and to see if we can get our hands on some of the new money. We have a lot of independent nurseries and we may lose children to them."

He said the council aimed to establish standards to ensure that proper provision was made

for four-year-olds, but it would take time to implement them.

Oxfordshire is also consulting about the possibility of admitting a higher proportion of four-year-olds to school, but it is anxious not to do so at the expense of nursery education.

A spokesman said: "We want to frame the policy in such a way that we say to parents that where nursery education is available we recommend that they put their children into nursery." Just over a quarter of the county's three and four-year-olds are in nursery education.

Hampshire, which already

admits children to school on a part-time basis when they are four is exploring the idea of four-year-olds starting full-time school earlier.

Mrs Pugh said: "What really worries me is that, even if vouchers are overturned by a Labour government, the rot has set in. Once you have taken children in early, you are going to carry on doing so."

National tests for five-year-olds are likely to be introduced in primary schools next year, after Government consultation with parents, governors and local authority leaders, it was confirmed yesterday.

Tory reshuffle stirs up row over Europe

Senior Cabinet members rally round the Chancellor over single currency policy

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

As John Major prepared to carry out his ministerial summer reshuffle today, there was strong speculation at Westminster that more ministers were ready to resign over his refusal to rule out a single European currency.

The threatened resignation of David Heathcoat-Amory, in spite of intense pressure for the Treasury minister to remain in the Government, ripped the lid off a simmering row among the Prime Minister's most senior ministers over the party's election manifesto policy on Europe.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has been joined by Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, in the battle to prevent the Tories going into the election promising to rule out a single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament.

They are insisting that the party should fight on the Government's White Paper policy of a promise of a referendum if a Cabinet recommends joining a single currency. Mr Clarke's pro-European supporters said Mr Rifkind and Mr Heseltine were supporting the Chancellor to ensure that he is not isolated by Euro-sceptic colleagues.

The split in the Cabinet has led to some ministers warning privately that, with less than a year to go, they are ready to quit. Party whips have been engaged in a heavy damage limitation operation to avoid more ministers leaving the Government. The reshuffle of the lower ranks expected today will do nothing to end the bitterness within the Government over Europe, and could leave some ministers, such as David Davis at the Foreign Office, disappointed with the failure to get higher office.

Euro-sceptic Tory MPs said Eric Forth, the Thatcherite employment and education minister, and David Maclean, Michael Howard's loyal deputy

at the Home Office, are among the disgruntled ministers. "The bitterness in the tea room has to be seen to be believed," said one ministerial aide. "Major has got to sort this out with Clarke, or force him to go."

The reshuffle will see some ministers who feel jaded after years in office stepping down to make way for younger blood. Those going are expected to include John Birt, from the Department of Health, Tim Eggar, the energy minister, and Steve

Mandarin is called to account

The Treasury official responsible for the internal report predicting privatisation of the welfare state under a future Tory government is expected to be disciplined today by civil service bosses, writes Colin Brown.

Last night the Treasury was said to be furious with Helen Goodman, the civil servant who led the team which was dismissed as "kidds" by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, after its report was leaked to the press.

Ms Goodman is expected to be challenged over her denial that she is a political activist, after it emerged at the weekend that she hopes to become a Labour MP and is on the shortlist of candidates for the safe Labour seat of South Yorkshire.

However, a spokesman for the Cabinet Office said last night that she had broken no civil service rules. As she has not gained the seat, she has not contravened the rule banning civil servants, under the Servants of the Crown Act, from being candidates for national or European parliamentary elections.

Ms Goodman, 37, whose husband publishes the left-of-centre Prospect magazine, called in the report for the privatisation of pensions and welfare benefits and for roads to be sold off with drivers paying to use them.

Norris, the transport minister, have announced their intention to step down. But Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who has told friends he is exhausted, may have to continue until the election unless Mr Major changes his mind in favour of dramatic changes to his pack.

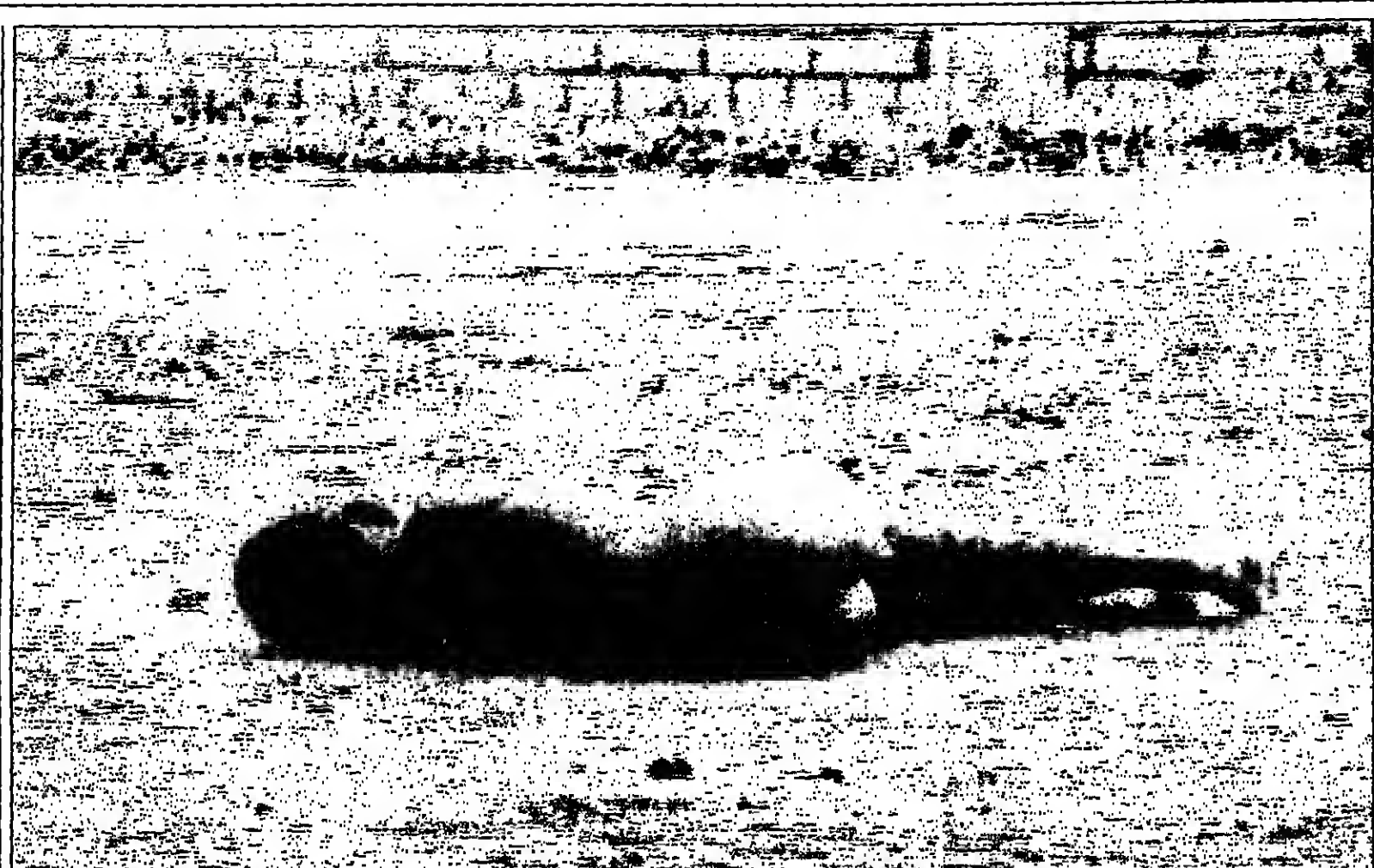
Mr Heathcoat-Amory, the Paymaster General at the Treasury, was refusing to comment over weekend speculation that he will quit to campaign against a single currency. Bill Cash, the leading Tory Euro-sceptic, said: "My argument is for a single currency to be put on the agenda for the inter-governmental conference to put Helmut Kohl [the German Chancellor] Kohl and Tony Blair [the Labour leader] on the spot. It would be a winning stroke. If David Heathcoat-Amory were to resign, that would be very effective in putting pressure on the Prime Minister."

Terry Dicks, another Euro-sceptic Tory MP, warned Mr Major against "pussy-footing around".

Part of the Tory panic over Europe was caused by rumours that Mr Blair was about to declare a commitment ruling out a single currency for the lifetime of the next Parliament. Authoritative Shadow Cabinet sources yesterday denied any such commitment by Labour.

But Mr Blair, who is fighting attempts by the left wing to unseat Harriet Harman in the Shadow Cabinet elections on Wednesday, is facing a challenge from more than 50 Euro-sceptic Labour MPs. They are publishing a pamphlet tomorrow calling for Mr Blair to rule out the single currency.

The "People's Europe" group is calling on activists to challenge their Labour MPs over their position on Europe. The group warn that joining a single currency would lead to a Labour Government axing £18m from public spending schemes, including hospitals and schools. They warn Mr Blair that it could split a Labour Cabinet in the same way that it has divided the Conservatives.



Senseless slaughter: The body of a dead child at Bugendana, where more Hutu raiders killed more than 300 Tutsis

Photograph: Reuters

The horror returns to Burundi

DAVID ORR
Bugendana

Exclusive: David Orr was the only European reporter to witness the aftermath of a massacre that left 300 dead

A charred claw protruded from the limp bundle where the woman's hand should have been. Two men had wrapped her body in a piece of reed matting and were half dragging it out of the red brick hut where she had fallen.

Smoke was still rising from the smouldering embers of the building and dark patches of congealed blood lay everywhere on the ground. On the concrete floor of the looted health centre, where the remains of more burned bodies lay in ashes, the pools of blood were still sticky and red.

Dead cattle, broken pots and blood-soaked clothes were scattered along the paths. Among the debris were piles of bullet casings and under a tree, three blood-covered canteens.

Inside the door of a mud-walled cabin another body was concealed, this one burned beyond recognition, its face frozen. The papers discarded on the ground outside gave the only

indication as to who the victim was. An identity card showed the smiling young face of a woman in a dress. Typed below her picture was: Spes-Caritas Ndayikengurukye, born 1971.

"That is the body of my daughter-in-law," said Antoine Rumukera, an old man who stood barefoot and crying a short distance away. "My three grandchildren were also butchered."

This horrific set of killings is a reminder that the international community continues to stand by, even as it stood by during the Rwandan genocide. The UN has constantly talked of bringing a peace-keeping force to Burundi. But it has failed to match words with action. In the absence of an international force came this mass murder.

The true horror of Saturday morning's attack on Bugendana, in central Burundi, was revealed in a clearing at the end of a dirt track. There, on a piece

of open ground, were laid out the bodies of about 300 people, mostly women and children. The corpses, wrapped in blankets and reed matting, had been placed side by side in three long rows.

Many had open gashes on their heads and limbs, others were badly burned. The feet which protruded from the makeshift shrouds were in many cases those of small children, no more than a few inches long.

Witnesses say the attack on Bugendana was launched as dawn broke over the lush, rolling hills which surround the community. This was a settlement of about 1,800 members of the country's minority Tutsi group. They were living in the centre's municipal buildings, after being displaced from their homes in the fighting which followed a coup attempt by Tutsi troops in 1993.

Tutsi soldiers crouched guarding Bugendana say the list of dead

stands at 320 people, though this number could still rise. Some 160 wounded lie in nearby hospitals while about 30 inhabitants are reported as missing.

"We were asleep in our beds when we heard shooting," said Pascale Ngendabanyika, one of more than 50 wounded who are now recovering in hospital in the provincial capital, Gitega.

"It was time for the first radio programme to come on the air. I was breast-feeding my child when men came into our house and started shooting. A bullet hit my baby in the back and went through one of my arms. The attackers asked for money. I gave them some clothes and told them I had no money. Then they said, 'kill her' and I ran away. They fired again and hit me in the other arm. I smeared my face with blood and lay down amongst some dead people outside. That is how I survived."

Other witnesses of the dawn

raid on Bugendana say the attackers numbered more than 1,000. They say they were rebels from the Hutu majority who have been locked in a bitter and increasingly brutal conflict with the largely Tutsi army.

"When we heard the shooting we thought they were attacking the military post," said one stunned inhabitant. "But then the rebels came to our houses and started shooting. I recognised some of the attackers, they were Hutus, our neighbours from the hills. We knew many of these people."

The attackers appear to be Hutu peasants. According to many witnesses, the killers were led by Rwandan Hutus who were apparently members of the former Rwandan army. They carried automatic weapons which they used to mow down those trying to flee.

Relatives of the dead recall that groups of men and women danced and sang as the houses were torched and petrol poured over their terrified occupants. Dozens of people appear to have been burned alive.

QUICKLY		CONTENTS	
Section 1	BUSINESS & CITY	16,17	Second Section
CROSSWORD	18	ARTS	26
OBITUARIES	14	CROSSWORD	30
SHARES	15	LISTINGS	28
		WEATHER	29

Second Spain bomb
A second bomb was found in a Spanish holiday hotel hours after a bomb exploded in Solau, injuring 21 Britons Page 3

Major for hire
The disclosure that businessman can dine with the PM by paying £100,000 to Tory funds grew into a row over sleaze Page 2



What got our athletes to the Olympics?

Talent, determination and a McDonnell-Douglas MD11

The British team flew to the games with Delta Air Lines. And no wonder, we have more flights to Atlanta than anyone else. **Delta**

Terror campaign shifts to Spanish resort



After Saturday's explosion, the discovery of a hotel bomb may test holidaymakers' nerve

JANE WALKER
CLARE GARNER
London

A bomb was discovered in a Spanish holiday hotel yesterday afternoon, as survivors of Saturday night's explosion at Reus airport were still recovering in hospital. The discovery brings to four the number of bombs planted in 24 hours by the Basque separatist group Eta.

Only hours after the blast which caused 34 injuries – 21 of them British – Spanish bomb disposal experts defused a device hidden in a ground floor cloakroom of the three-star Delfin Park Hotel in Salou.

Spanish hotel owners and tour operators admitted they were seriously worried about the repercussions of the latest bombing campaign on the tourist trade. But back in Britain, tour operators were

reassured by the discovery of the hotel bomb. The tour operator through which the injured tourists had booked,

Yesterday, a Lancashire couple described how they missed the airport bomb by a matter of minutes. Safely back at their home in the tiny village of Billington, near Clitheroe,

Mill worker Eileen Parker, 52, said: "I feel awful and can't believe I'm still alive. You always think it will be someone else until you get caught up in it. I was in Manchester just the day before the bomb went off. They say lightning never strikes twice, but for some people it can."

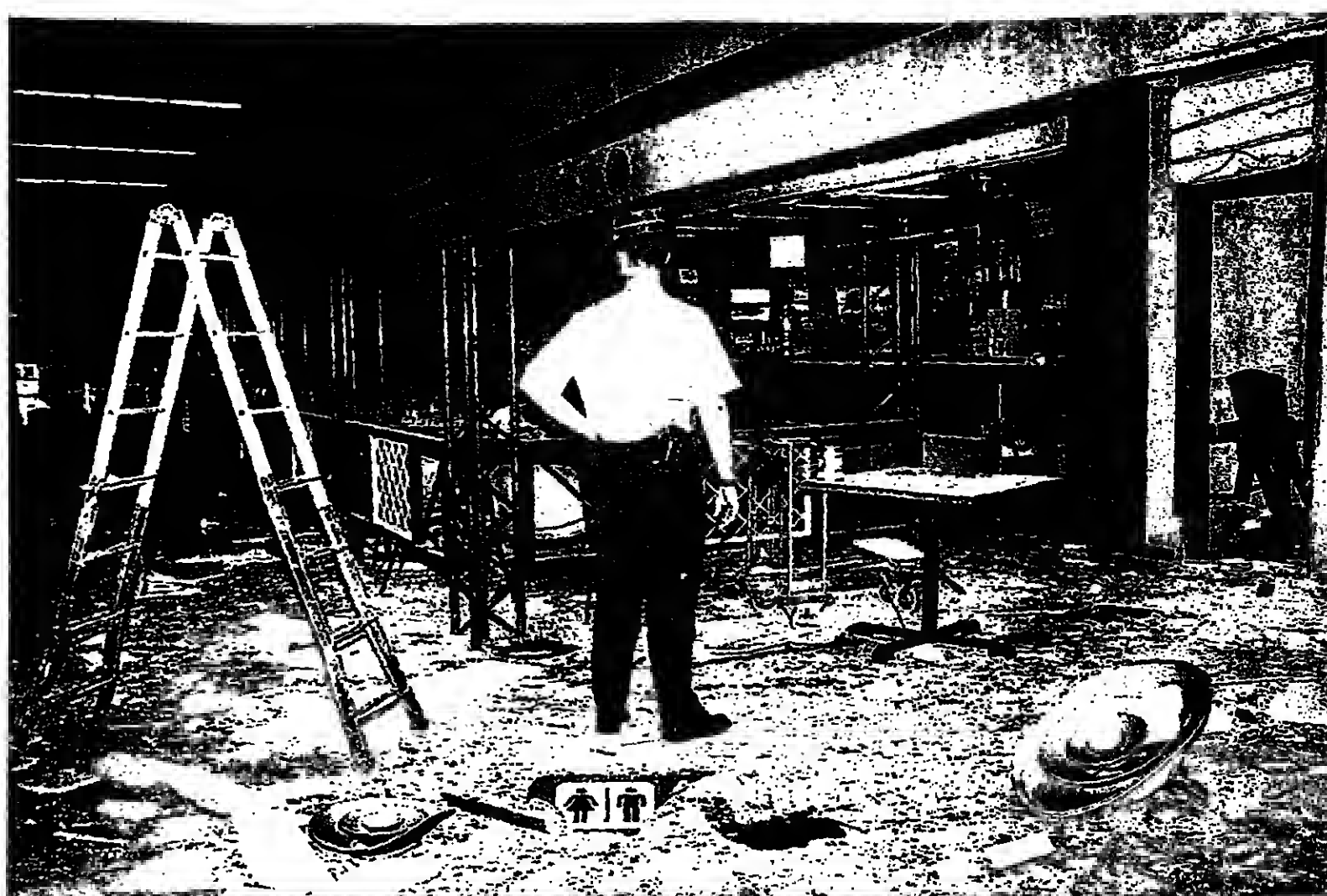
But despite their ordeal, Mrs Parker and her husband, Alan, 58, who works in a foundry, said: "We've been before and we'll go again. There's no way they are going to stop us visiting a place we love."

Richard Grummitt, of Thomas Cook, reinforced the image of the "safer summer trip". "Based on previous experience, most people say: 'I've booked my holiday and I'm going.' The British are pretty resilient. They seem quite determined to have their one or two weeks' holiday. The only big issue we've had was people want-

ing to cancel during the British Airways dispute. People thought they wouldn't be able to go on holiday and wanted to make alternative arrangements."

Keith Betton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), said Britons had a habit of turning a blind eye to trouble spots. "Take the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Turkey. They have been threatening terrorism for the last four years. It affected the German market, but the number of British visitors to Turkey has doubled. We've had Egypt, where the Islamic fundamentalists have fired shots at boats going up and down the Nile. That had a lot more impact."

But he doesn't believe British holiday makers will become "fanatical" about the situation in Spain. "Four and a half million British people go to Spain this summer. Putting it crudely, even if four people had got shot dead it's one in a million. Eta attempts to make a lot of noise, a lot of smoke and a few headlines in the papers the next day. We hope that that's the kind of tactic they keep to, rather than aiming to hurt people."



Shattered: A police officer examines the damage at Reus airport after the blast on Saturday, which injured 33

Photograph: AFP

Stubborn separatists keep fire burning

Saturday's attack shows that Eta – Basque Homeland and Freedom – remains both intransigent and all but immune to counter-terrorist efforts by Madrid. Only weeks ago, the Spanish government said it was aware that Eta command structures remained intact.

Eta has planted a number of bombs against tourist targets in recent weeks, creating chaos and uncertainty in Spain's most important industry.

It is a diversion from its usual strategy. During 30 years of terrorism, Eta has usually gone for military or political targets: blowing up Civil Guard barracks, shooting or car-bombing politicians or military men linked to Basque security.

Even after Franco died in

1975, and the new democracy granted Basques the most generous degree of autonomy in Spain – indeed in Europe – Eta did not let up. It regarded Madrid's concessions as empty substitutes for full independence.

Only in 1987 did Eta aim at a "civilian" target. It bombed a supermarket in Barcelona, killing 21 and wounding 35. That attack bloody interrupted attempts by the Socialist government to open up channels of dialogue with Eta.

The government's policy of *rapprochement* followed years of a "dirty war" during the early 1980s, when policemen and civil guardsmen were accused of murdering more than 20 Eta suspects. A clutch of former So-

Driven by dogma, Eta shows few signs of ending its violence, writes Elizabeth Nash

cialist ministers are currently up before the Supreme Court, accused of masterminding these undercover hit-squads, and the scandal helped bring down Felipe Gonzalez's government in the March elections.

Jose Maria Aznar's conservative Popular Party came to power on a hardline anti-Eta platform. Mr Aznar narrowly escaped death in April last year when a huge Eta bomb blew his armoured car to smithereens. He walked calmly from the

wreckage, unhurt. His coolness caused his popularity to soar, and within the year he was Prime Minister.

Eta followed that coup with a foiled plot to kill King Juan Carlos, a car-bomb that killed six in a working-class Madrid suburb and, during the election campaign, two important political assassinations. The second of these, that of the influential jurist, Francisco Tomas y Valiente, in his study at Madrid University, unleashed an outpouring of popular revulsion.

When Mr Aznar took power, his deeds were more conciliatory than his earlier words, in deference to conservative Basque nationalists whose support he needed. He appointed a respected Basque PP leader,

Jaime Mayor Oreja, interior minister, who organised the return of some of the 500-plus Eta prisoners dispersed throughout Spain to jails nearer their homes. This was long an Eta demand, given clout by their kidnapping of a prison officer Jose Ortega Lara in January.

Last month Eta announced a week-long ceasefire, prompting Madrid for the first time in years to talk of opening indirect contacts. But Eta spurned the olive branch, so the government slammed the door. Its operating ability seems unimpaired, resistant to both blandishments and repression. The violence that has claimed more than 800 lives may be expected to go on, and Spain is braced for the next atrocity.

'Diplomatic' advice on travel

CLARE GARNER

If you think Spain is a dangerous place for a holiday, take a look at the Foreign Office's guide to travelling the world. There is Papua New Guinea, for example, with its "constant threat of danger" or the "currently calm" Casamance region of Southern Senegal where "the situation could however change at any time".

You might consider avoiding internal flights in Russia more of a priority ("It's not known whether aircraft maintenance practices are always properly observed") and attempt "desert travel" in Sudan only if you are "fully equipped and experi-

enced". The Foreign Office updated its Spanish travel advice to the 10 million Britons due to visit the country this year. The amended version refers to the bomb, but otherwise the advice remains unchanged. Tourists are reminded that the "stated aim" of Eta is to disrupt the tourist industry and told to "report any suspicious bags or packages to the local police".

The Foreign Office travel advice – which warns of potential hazards ranging from political insurgency and diphtheria epidemics to pickpockets – is available on CeeFax and in travel agents. Tour operators take their cue from the Foreign Office and describe the informa-

tion as "crucial" since it is "independent".

The travel advice unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advises Britons they "should not attempt to visit" the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Iraq, Jammu and Kashmir (India), Liberia, Montserrat, Somalia and Western Sahara. Other countries to be avoided "unless on essential business" are Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Congo, Rwanda and Tajikistan.

The situation in Spain is not yet severe enough to be in the "Be Vigilant" bracket. "Such advice is reserved for visitors to

places like Georgia, where you must "be vigilant and take sensible precautions against mugging" and Kashmir, where you are told to be "vigilant" and wary of explosions. A Foreign Office spokesman explained: "People should report suspicious packages and be aware of the background to the recent terrorist attacks."

Sometimes, however, the language can sound a bit understated. "They might say 'non-essential trips should be reconsidered' which is Foreign Office speak for don't go there," said Keith Betton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Tourist Travel Agents. "They have to be diplomatic."

American 'tigers' fire first shot in credit-card war

JOHN WILCOCK

Four American credit card companies, dubbed the "Four Tigers" have launched an all-out assault on the UK card market, currently dominated by the likes of Barclaycard and Access, by charging initial interest rates of less than 9 per cent.

American credit card specialist MBNA has been mailing selected potential customers with an offer of 8.9 per cent interest for the first six months, with a switch to their standard rate of 18.9 per cent after that.

Even MBNA's standard rate, however, is significantly below the 22.3 per cent charged by Barclaycard. More damagingly for the British high-street banks, the Americans do not charge an annual fee. For instance, Barclaycard charges £10 a year, and NatWest's Mastercard £12.

This, while the UK base rate has fallen to just 5.75 per cent, with inflation at 2.1 per cent. Politicians and consumer groups have frequently criticised the banks for failing to cut credit-card rates in line with falling base rates.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigated whether the four UK high-street banks were operating a credit-card cartel in the late 1980s. For the previous 20 years Barclays had issued Visa cards, with the other three issuing Access.

BARCLAYCARD		British banks
MBNA	8.9 (first six months)	
RBS Advanta	15.6	
Barclaycard	22.3	4.56

The commission's probe withered away when two new issuers, Chase Manhattan and Save & Prosper, issued cards. But the market is still a hot political potato.

However, don't even think about applying for an American card. The tigers operate on an invitation-only basis. They write to people they consider to be good credit risks.

The US companies prefer to keep a low profile, in contrast to Barclaycard's colourful TV advertising campaign starring the comedian Rowan Atkinson.

The Four Tigers have taken large swathes of customers from American high-street banks like Citicorp by concentrating on people with good credit ratings, and offering rock-bottom interest rates. And now the US market is saturated with low-rate credit cards, the tigers are

turning their sights on the UK market, which they regard as "complacent".

Industry observers see it as the first concerted attack on the lucrative stranglehold that British banks have had on credit cards. While UK institutions like Save & Prosper have tried launching low-rate credit cards before, the high-street banks still dominate the market and still charge rates of 22-23 per cent.

One American tiger, Advanta, set up a company in February with Royal Bank of Scotland to offer rates of less than 14 per cent for six months, followed by a standard rate of 15.6 per cent.

Mark Austin, planning and development manager at the RBS Advanta, said: "There has been a phoney war in the UK credit-card market for some years now. But the Americans

have done it in the US and they're serious. Over 30 per cent of people who have credit cards in the UK pay interest on them, and it's these people they're aiming at."

Two companies, MBNA and RBS Advanta, have been recruiting heavily in the UK since Christmas. MBNA entered the UK two years ago by linking with a range of British card issuers such as Allied Dunbar and Barnsley Building Society. The two other "tigers", Capital One and First US, are expected to follow suit.

The British have reacted this year by launching their own introductory rates – in reaction to the competition, not to falling base rates, according to their critics. Lloyds is offering 16 per cent for the first six months on its Mastercard, before switching to its usual rate of 22 per cent plus a £10 annual fee.

NatWest has been the most adventurous of the British banks by offering a 12 per cent introductory rate. But after that it will still charge 22.7 per cent, plus an annual fee of £12.

It is not only wealthy customers that will be targeted by the Americans. RBS Advanta's benchmark is the over-21s earning over £10,000 a year. But they all use highly sophisticated credit-scoring databanks to "cherry pick" potential customers, hoping to leave the dodgy late-payers to the British.

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"



Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primicare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover – at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primicare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

Prime Health
A member of the Standard Life Group

Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title _____ First name _____
 Please use BLOCK CAPITALS
 Surname _____ Date of birth _____
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Phone (inc. STD code) Day _____ Evening _____
 Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover _____
 Cover required: Single ☐ Married ☐ Family ☐ Single parent family ☐
 If you already have private medical insurance, please state renewal date _____
 Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 3042 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6YB.

news

The house that tells the history of Britain



Eastry Court, near Sandwich, Kent, is listed as the oldest house in Britain and is on sale for £650,000

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

ALISON TAYLOR.

It may look like a Georgian country residence, but Eastry Court is the oldest house in Britain. Dating from 603 AD, it can claim to be the birthplace of English Christianity and is on sale for £650,000.

Eastry Court, at Sandwich, Kent is an estate agent's dream, with period charm from the 14th, 16th and 18th centuries. Few houses can boast an "Inner Hall" with flagstone floors and exposed timbers. The Georgian facade conceals an interior which has been adapted

nearly every century. Its biggest selling point is its site, where some of the most dramatic events of the Dark Ages took place. Though only a few bits of the stonework remain, Eastry Court was an Anglo-Saxon palace belonging to the High King Ethelbert of Kent. He

married Bertha, the daughter of the King of Paris, who converted him to Christianity. She brought early Christians to England, including Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the 9th century Ethelred the Unready gave the house to monks, seeking spiritual aid

against the marauding Swain Forkbeard. It brought him no luck - Swain's son, Canute, became the next King. The owner, Marion Gear, said she would miss it, but added: "It's lovely when the children come back but it's just too big for me."

Housekeeper tells of 3-day crash ordeal

REBECCA FOWLER

An Irish housekeeper who cared for a priest for 38 years yesterday described their three-day ordeal trapped in an overturned car, which ended in tragedy when he died before rescuers reached them.

Nancy Gallagher, 67, and Father Ambrose Woods, 83, from Carlingford in Co Louth, drove to their favourite beauty spot, to view the Mourne mountains where Ms Gallagher grew up. But on their journey home last Monday, the car plunged down a 30ft bank.

As it overturned, Fr Ambrose was thrown through the sunroof, and was trapped from the waist down, while Ms Gallagher fell into the boot area and was also unable to move. They shouted themselves hoarse but their calls were not heard from the remote spot. Without food and water, Fr Ambrose gradually became weaker. Ms Gallagher said: "On Tuesday he told me he was on his way out. I told him not to talk - that's one of my favourite phrases - then he said 'No Nancy, I'm really going'. He knew I couldn't reach him, so I put my hand on his shoulder and we said a prayer."

After praying to the Holy Spirit, and 20 hours into their ordeal, Fr Ambrose died.

Ms Gallagher said she was determined to survive alone because she was anxious to ensure he had a fitting funeral for a priest. Yesterday, her voice still hoarse from shouting, she said: "After we prayed I knew he was gone. It was so frustrating, not being able to do anything for him. For the first time in 38 years I wasn't able to help him and look after him." Ms Gal-



Ordeal: Nancy Gallagher (above) and Fr Ambrose



of friends. I used to argue and shout at him, and he used to raise his eyebrows, laugh and move into the next room and let me get on with it. He always said I had a tempery tongue, because I tend to swear."

The accident last week happened when Fr Ambrose sensed the car behind him was eager to overtake on the steep mountain road. He decided to pull over, but instead of braking, Fr Ambrose put his foot on the accelerator and the Nissan car fell down the overgrown embankment and landed beside a tree stump.

Ms Gallagher said: "There was no water in the car, nothing. I did think of having a cigarette, because I do sometimes, but I was worried about the petrol in the car. The main thing we did in the hours before the Father died was praying. Then I dozed off two or three times, and then at last I heard someone saying my name."

Eventually Ms Gallagher's cries were heard, at 6am on Thursday, by Tom Boyle, a local odd-job man who worked for Fr Ambrose. He raised the alarm when the couple went missing, and helped with the police search.

Ms Gallagher was taken to hospital in Dundalk suffering from dehydration. But she returned home this weekend to carry out her wish that Fr Ambrose, who will be buried today, should have the funeral he deserved.

Despite her sadness at Fr Ambrose's death, Ms Gallagher said: "Since I started working for him, I always prayed he would go first. I didn't want him left on his own, with no one to look after him."

Major tries to save loyalist ceasefire

The Prime Minister will meet fringe Unionist leaders with links to loyalist paramilitaries today, amid growing concern that the loyalist ceasefire is in jeopardy, writes Rebecca Fowler.

John Major will meet a joint delegation from the Progressive Unionist Party, including the leader David Ervine, and from the Ulster Democratic Party, led by Gary McMichael, at Downing Street to discuss the future of the peace talks.

It is understood to be the first time that a British prime minister has held talks directly with the parties who have links to the UDA and UVF paramilitaries which announced a ceasefire six weeks after the IRA in 1994.

Mr McMichael said that he would be calling for a crack-down on the IRA in an attempt to salvage the peace process, following separate requests from both parties to speak to Mr Major.

He said: "It's up to all of us to do what we can to salvage the

situation. But there needs to be a strong hand from the government to isolate those republicans who want to agitate and return to violence."

There are also fears that the loyalist Apprentice Boys' march in Londonderry, on 10 August, will provoke further clashes with nationalists and bring Northern Ireland back to the brink of disaster. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will meet the Apprentice Boys at Stormont in Belfast this week to discuss possible routes for the parade, which ended in widespread violence in 1969 at the beginning of the Troubles.

Even last summer, when, following the ceasefire, the parade returned to its traditional route around the city walls for the first time in 25 years, violence broke out between loyalists and nationalists.

More than 15,000 loyalists are expected to attend the parade to commemorate the siege of the city in 1689. They hope to

march around the city walls in the morning, and through the city centre for a church service at St Columba's Cathedral in the afternoon. Most likely flash-points are with Protestants on the Fountain estate, and with Catholics from the Bogside estate. Talks between loyalists and the nationalists who live there are understood to have broken down.

At rallies in Londonderry last weekend nationalists also spoke of hockkading the Craigavon Bridge to keep the parade out of the city. Gregory Campbell, a DUP member and an Apprentice Boy, said: "What cannot be up for negotiation is the right of the Apprentice Boys, who live and work in the city, to parade along the city's walls."

He added: "Nor the right of the Apprentice Boys to come into the city-centre side of the river where they have their headquarters, where there is a Protestant Cathedral, and the Protestant Fountain estate."



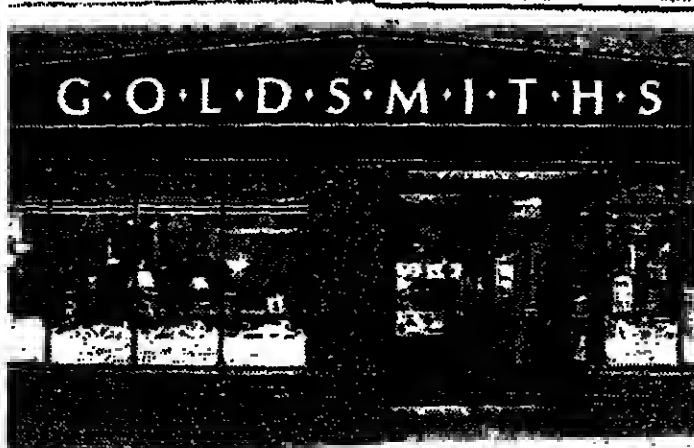
Today, a Goldsmiths jeweller is one of the best places to buy a Rolex. In 1919 it was the only place.

The legendary Rolex Oyster, the world's first ever waterproof wrist Chronometer, first saw the light of day in 1926.

Even before then, however, Goldsmiths had been officially appointed as Britain's first jewellers to sell Rolex watches.

Since that time some 77 years ago, each partner has gone from strength to strength. The Rolex Oyster has become synonymous the world over with superior quality and peerless performance. And the Goldsmiths Group, probably the country's leading chain of quality jewellers including Walker & Hall, has achieved a reputation for outstanding quality of service.

Not to mention a history of service that would be envied by any other jeweller in the land.



Illustrated: Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust Chronometer in stainless steel £1,620. Rolex Oyster prices start at £1,155. For more information about your local jeweller, please call 0800 220 733.

GOLD SMITHS: Aberdeen • Bath • Brighton • Canterbury • Chelmsford • Cheltenham • Chester • Esher • Gateshead • Guildford • Harrogate • Leicester • Llandudno • London Bishopsgate • Nottingham • Torquay • Wakefield • Weston-super-Mare • Wigan • Wilmslow • NORTHERN GOLD SMITHS: Newcastle-upon-Tyne • WALKER & HALL: Altrincham • Cardiff • Dudley • Ulford • Leicester • Lincoln • Middlesbrough • Newcastle-upon-Tyne • Nottingham • Oxford • Sheffield • Stirling • Thurrock • Woking • ALFRED CHILLCOTT & CO: Bristol • FATTORINI & SONS: Bradford • Sheffield • MUNSEY & CO: Cambridge • STRADLINGS: Cirencester • J A HASKELL: Ipswich • GREENWOOD JEWELLERS: Leeds • GEO ATTENBOROUGH: London • BRACHER & SYDENHAM: Reading • ROBINSON: Shrewsbury • GEO FARRER LIMITED: Tunbridge Wells.

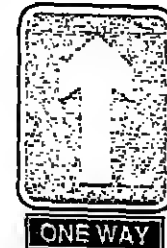
GOLD SMITHS WALKER & HALL

The first officially appointed Rolex stockists in the UK.

easyJet

Amsterdam

Finance Director's Dream Ticket
£35



easyJet

Call 0990 29 29 29 anytime

ATOL 4023

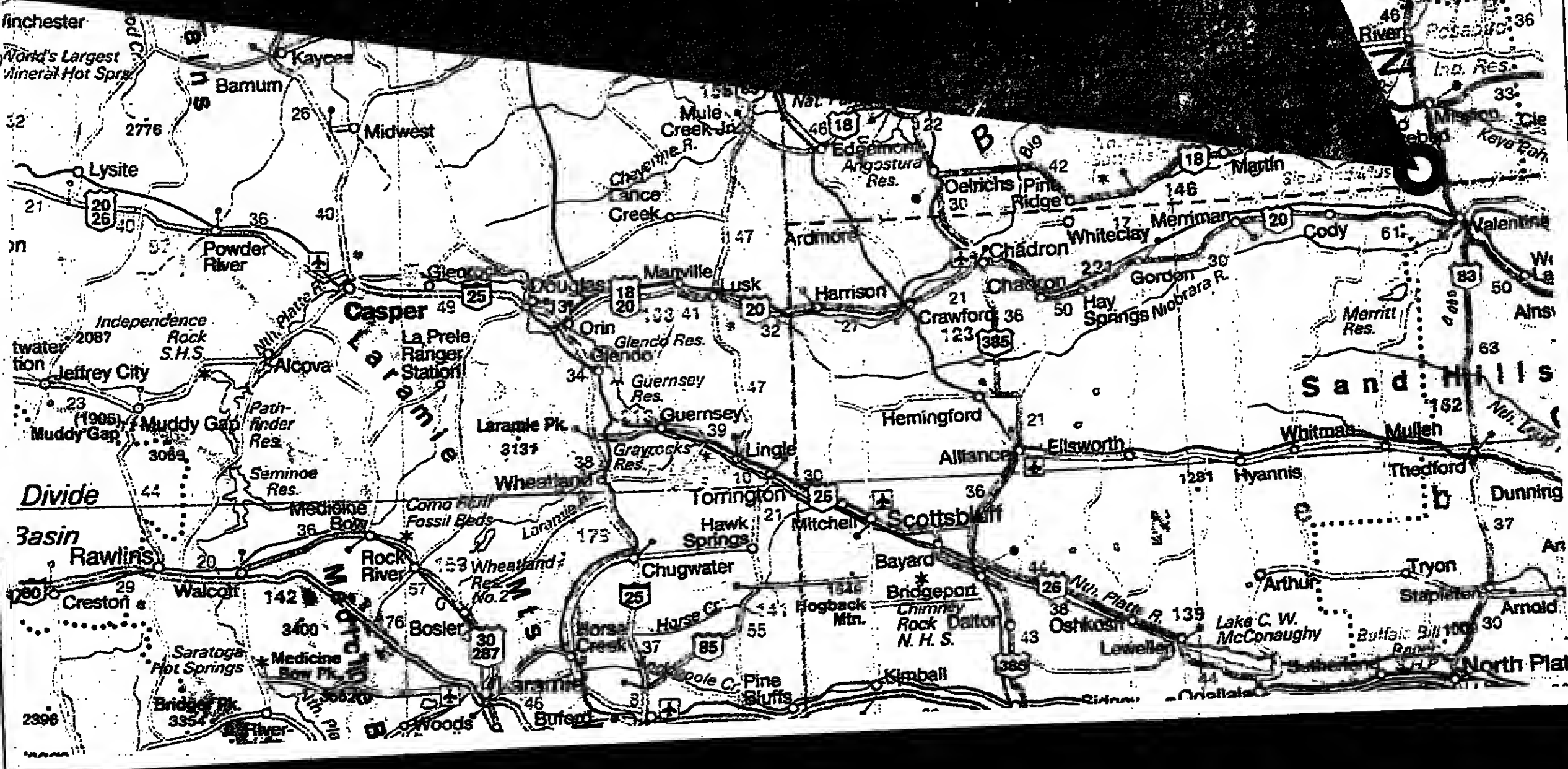
5 flights a day from London Luton to Amsterdam, also Nice, Eze, Scotland, etc. Barcelona, etc. Single fares • tax subject to availability

es to save
ceasefire

Director's Ticket

5

MARLBORO MEDIUM. Somewhere in the middle of Marlboro Country.



PROTECT CHILDREN: DON'T MAKE
THEM BREATHE YOUR SMOKE

Chief Medical Officers' Warning
9 mg Tar 0.7 mg Nicotine

international

Peru stunned by military aid to drug cartels

Callao — The President's custom-fitted DC-8 jetliner sat on the tarmac, engines running, all set for an important trip to Europe. President Alberto Fujimori was not on board for this one, just a Peruvian Air Force crew who told their mechanics they were on a "secret mission". They were not lying — but it was hardly an affair of state.

The aircraft never got off the ground. Out of nowhere at Air Force Base Number 8, in the port of Callao next to Lima's international airport, Peruvian police and senior air force officers surrounded the jet and began an on-board search. Behind the wall panels, where the President's bodyguards often sit, they found more than 380lb of pure processed cocaine, worth around \$4.5m on the street.

The discovery, on 12 May, was just one of many drug hauls in recent weeks which stunned Peruvians because of the involvement of the air force and navy. More than 200 army officers had been prosecuted by military courts in recent years for involvement in narcotics trafficking but the other branches of the armed forces were widely thought to be clean.

The navy has ordered a search of all its warships and cargo vessels after two naval cargo vessels were found to be carrying cocaine earlier this month, one at Callao, the other docked in Vancouver, Canada.

Each had over 100lb of cocaine on board, hidden in the engine room or in the funnel, enough to make a few naval officers very rich.

The recent seizures suggested army, air force and navy personnel were helping to ship both

Army, navy and air-force personnel are helping druglords, Phil Davison reports

coca paste and refined cocaine out of Peru on behalf of Colombian druglords feeling the heat from US-backed anti-narcotics sweeps in their own country.

Sixteen air-force officers or technical personnel, including one of Mr Fujimori's elite group of pilots, were detained after the cocaine haul on the presidential aircraft, which had apparently been due to stop in the US and both Western and Eastern Europe. Some of the detainees said the same plane — one of at least two used by the president — had shipped cocaine several times in the past, including when Mr Fujimori was on board but without his knowledge, according to police sources.

"I don't deny that there's been infiltration [in the armed forces by drug mafias] at some levels but capturing that amount of cocaine is good news," Mr Fujimori said after the seizure.

After the military suppression of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas in the early Nineties, army troops set up bases in isolated mountain and jungle areas and often took on one of the guerrillas' lucrative roles — taking "quotas" from druglords to protect their coca fields, laboratories or shipments, according to anti-narcotics agents here.

Peru is the world's biggest producer of coca leaf, the basis for coca paste and ultimately the refined powder, with a harvest last year of 183,000 tons. *Mate de coca* (tea from the coca leaf) is widely available in

cafés and stores, although it is illegal in the US.

Whereas Peruvian gangs have long made coca paste from the leaf and shipped it to Colombian cartels for chemical refining in Colombian laboratories, the Colombians have themselves recently moved south to set up labs within Peru. "Recent crackdowns in Colombia have made things tighter up there," said one anti-narcotics agent here. "Now, it's easier for the Colombians to set up down here, in isolated mountain and jungle areas, refine their product on the spot and ship it directly to the US or Europe. All they have to do is get chemicals in and their shipments out. That's where pay-offs to the military come in."

The agent said recent anti-narcotics sweeps on both sides of the Peru-Colombia border have led to a doubling of smuggling from the Iquitos area in northern Peru, east along the Amazon, often by speedboat, into Brazil. Former Shining Path guerrillas are among smugglers who pay local peasants to carry the drugs across the jungle border.

A Brazilian woman, two Colombian men and two Peruvian policemen were among a gang of 25 smugglers arrested in Lima and Iquitos at the weekend. More than 460 pounds of cocaine paste was seized by anti-narcotics police who said the gang was led by a Colombian druglord who operated in his own country and who was still at large.



Regal touch: The 17th-century statue of King Zygmunt III Waza being removed from a column in front of the Royal Castle in Warsaw for restoration. Photograph: AFP

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

A North Korean agent in disguise as a Filipino professor has taught in a South Korean university since the 1980s. The government's main spy agency said yesterday. Mohammad Kalso, an assistant history professor at Seoul's Dankook University, was arrested early this month on charges of illegally communicating with North Korea. Mr Kalso was accused of reporting by fax to North Korea on US and South Korean policies on North Korea and US military deployments in the south. AP — Seoul

Russian troops pushed ahead with an attack on a rebel base in Chechnya's southern mountains, but said bad weather hampered their operations. Two army engineers were killed when they were hit by rebel fire on the second day of the offensive against the base near Shatoi, the federal command said. AP — Grozny

Rescue workers in China have airlifted hundreds of tons of food and more than one million bottles of mineral water to a city swamped by floods in the south-west of the country. Only a few areas of high ground in the city of Liuzhou in Guangxi province escaped the flooding after the water level of the Liujiang river surged to its highest mark this century. "The whole city is under water," a city government official said. Reuter — Peking

President Nelson Mandela's recent official visit to France has revived speculation in South Africa about his love life. The Johannesburg Sunday Times reported that while in Paris, Mr Mandela met at least three times with Graca Machet, a UN official and widow of a former Mozambican president. Their meetings included a lunch in President Mandela's suite at the state guest house, and dinner with a small group of friends at the residence of Barbara Masekela, South Africa's Ambassador to France, the paper said. It added that Ms Machet flew to South Africa with the President on his official jet when his four-day visit ended last Thursday. AP — Johannesburg

A questionnaire distributed by Palestinian intelligence agents that asks Palestinian journalists about their political backgrounds and whether their relatives have ever been accused of spying has drawn strong criticism. Circulated among Palestinian reporters in the Gaza Strip, it asks such questions as: "Do you belong to a political party?", and, "Name your close relatives and friends". The Arab Journalists Association called on reporters not to fill out the form. "It is not acceptable to deal with the Palestinian journalist as a spy," said Mohammed Dawoudi, an official of the organisation. AP — Jerusalem

A prison inmate on hunger strike has died, a human rights official said — the first fatality among 1,500 leftist and Kurdish inmates fasting throughout Turkey since May to protest against prison conditions. The inmate, Aygun Ugur, was a member of the banned Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, and had been on hunger strike at the high-security Umraniye jail for 63 days, said Ibrahim Varol, an official of Turkey's Independent Human Rights Association. "We expect more deaths," he said. Ugur's death came two weeks after Turkey's new Islamic-inspired government cancelled strict new prison policies in an effort to end the hunger strikes. AP — Istanbul

The son of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos attacked a US jury's \$22bn (£14bn) judgment against his family as absurd, saying it implied that the Marcoses had twice as much gold as there was in Fort Knox. Reuter — Manila

An Italian teenager shot in the head at point-blank range as he prepared to hand over a scooter to a gang of thieves was in a coma and doctors described him as clinically dead. Reuter — Naples

Dubai's oldest man has died at the age of 136. Long walks and a diet of quail and bread helped the retired mosque preacher Ali Matar bin Ghurair reach his advanced age, Dubai papers said at the weekend. He is survived by 103 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and one of his sons is 98. The Guinness Book of World Records recognises Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment as the oldest person in the world with a birth certificate proving she is 121. Reuter — Dubai

Nixon diary damns Clinton as cowardly adulterer



Nixon: Attacks Clinton for dodging draft in Vietnam

ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN
Reuter

New York — Richard Nixon thought Bill Clinton a "slippery" character who got away with adultery and behaved like a cowardly spoiled brat during the Vietnam War, according to excerpts from a new book by a close aide to the former president, released yesterday.

But the book, *Nixon Unplugged* excerpted in the New Yorker magazine, says Nixon came to admire Mr Clinton as President, partly because the Democrat treated him with respect, inviting him back to the White House from which he was forced in disgrace in 1974.

The book, by Monica Crowley, Nixon's foreign-policy assistant, said Nixon detested First Lady Hillary Clinton, dismissing her as a potentially dangerous radical locked in a loveless marriage.

The one person who emerges with Nixon's unqualified praise is the Republican Party's prospective presidential candidate, Bob Dole, who Nixon calls the only one in "the country who can lead. He is by far the smartest politician — and Republican — in the country today."

Ms Crowley went to work for Nixon in 1990 when she was 21 years old and stayed until he died in 1994. She accompanied him to Russia and Asia, sitting

in on his talks with heads of state. Without Nixon's knowledge, she kept a diary of their conversations.

Nixon thought Mr Clinton was an adulterer, telling Ms Crowley: "You know, this is really something. This guy didn't just have a fling; he had a 12-year affair. He's a repeat offender, and as governor no less."

"That's arrogance of power! But I still don't think it will destroy him. He's too slippery to have anything like this stick. And, as far as Hillary is concerned... She's a radical. If she gets in, whoa! Everybody will have to fasten their seat belts."

Nixon showed no sympathy over the Whitewater real estate

venture, which has haunted the Clintons. "Here you have financial gain and abuse of power... and nothing is done. And here was Hillary on [Nixon's] impeachment committee... screaming about the eighteen-and-a-half minutes [gap on a crucial tape recording] and now she's in Little Rock shredding."

Nixon held Mrs Clinton in special contempt because she worked for the House committee that considered impeaching him. He was also harsh and unforgiving toward Mr Clinton for avoiding service during the Vietnam War.

"I cannot believe this guy is a serious contender for the presidency. I know why he did

what he did to dodge the draft: he didn't want to get his ass shot off," Ms Crowley quoted Nixon as telling her in 1992, adding:

"He is a coward and a fraud. He didn't serve his country when it needed him, so why should we have him serve it when he is ready? ... When he evaded the draft, he cheated the country and the people whose votes he is asking for... He was no conscientious objector, he was a selfish, spoiled brat."

The former president added: "He made my job harder and he sent God knows how many men to their deaths in his place. I'll tell you, if he is elected president, I will know this country has finally gone to hell."

Buy the mobile phone.
Get the pocket TV free.

PHILIPS

NEW GSM MODEL FIZZ
◆ Up to 75 mins talk-time
◆ Up to 45 hrs standby-time
◆ 45 name/number memory
◆ Rapid recharge
◆ Complete package with standard battery and charger
◆ Dimensions 162x60x17mm
◆ Weight 210g

FREE COLOUR TV
WORTH £99.99 (RRP)



Batteries not included
LIMITED OFFER PHONE NOW



LIMITED OFFER
£4.99
INC. VAT

The complete listening and viewing package from Cellphones Direct! Order the outstanding Philips Fizz digital mobile phone today, and once you've had it connected, we'll send you this superb Casio 2.5 inch screen portable TV worth £99.99 (RRP) entirely free of charge.

Simply call us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

VODAFONE PERSONALWORLD
Monthly Rental: £29.25 (£30 + VAT)
Monthly Rental: £17.63 (£18 + VAT)
Peak Rate Call: 35.25p per min (30p + VAT)
Off Peak Call: 11.75p per min (10p + VAT)
Personal World 24 hr access an £10.00 (10p + VAT) in the morning (08.00-12.00) and an £10.00 (10p + VAT) in the evening (18.00-21.00). All other times are charged at £1.27 per min. (10p + VAT). See website for full details and terms and conditions. © 1996 Vodafone.

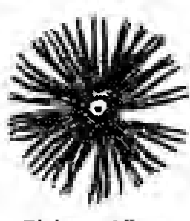
GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise

Cellphones
Direct

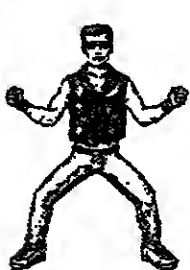
ORDER NOW WITH YOUR CREDIT CARD DETAILS FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREephone 0800 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 7PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT HANDY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 4837. (SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS)
Offer subject to status, a standard airtime contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 185 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LS and the phone not being returned within the 14-day period of refund period. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 292522



Diadema antillarum
(Long Spined Urchin)



Mungus thugan
(Common Hoodlum)



Latrodectus mactans
(Black Widow Spider)

American Express annual travel insurance.

Because you never know who you'll meet on holiday.

No matter who you bump into on holiday, you can rest assured our comprehensive annual travel insurance covers almost every eventuality, including up to £2 million medical expenses.

What's more, you don't have to be an American Express Cardmember to enjoy this worldwide security from a worldwide company.

So, to relax before you go on holiday, call the number below between 8am and 8pm quoting reference 1A8

Arrange 365 days of cover in just 5 minutes.

0800 700 737

Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request

Insurance
Services

Plam Speaking Home Insurance

Renewing your Home Insurance in July or August?

UP TO
£25 OFF
1st year's
Buildings premiums

UP TO
35% OFF
Home contents
premiums

Switch your buildings insurance from your mortgage lender and we'll give you £25 off your 1st year's premium. What's more, if you take out contents insurance with Prudential at the same time, you will receive a 15% discount, plus there's a further 20% off your buildings and contents premium if you're aged 50 or over.

Find out how much you could save. Call now for a free quote. PLUS a FREE home security video.



YOURS FREE

Call Prudential on 0800 300 300

Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and from 10am to 2pm weekends.

For your protection, calls on this number will be recorded.

Please note, in some cases we may not be able to provide a quote. Please quote a reference GAC 393.

PRUDENTIAL

Israel and Hizbollah swap their dead

ROBERT FISK
Kfar Tibnit, southern Lebanon

The Israeli dead went home in the morning, in steel coffins reverently placed on a German military aircraft for the brief flight to Tel Aviv.

The Hizbollah dead came home in cheap wooden boxes, bouncing in the back of 17 construction lorries, to be pushed amid screams of grief into more than 100 black, white and brown hearsees that were parked amid the hot olive groves of southern Lebanon.

In a country where the dead always come first, it was probably inevitable that the living prisoners - 17 members of Israel's proxy militia in southern Lebanon, and 45 inmates of the notorious, Israeli-run Khiam jail - were still waiting to be liberated at dusk.

There were family mourners in Israel for Rahum Al-Sheikh and Yusef Fink, the two Israeli soldiers wounded and captured in a Hizbollah ambush inside Lebanon in 1986, both of whom died in captivity. And there were thousands of Hizbollah men and grieving families for the 123 "martyrs" when their bodies were unloaded from the trucks, some youths even fighting each other in their rage on top of the coffins.

Many of the dead were killed in Hizbollah's human wave attacks on Israeli occupation troops in the late 1980s, though others had been killed recently enough for the mourners to cover their faces with handkerchiefs as the trucks drove past.

If there was grief in both Israel and Lebanon, there was at least some triumph for the German security services who - of all people - had brought about this extraordinary, if gruesome, body-swap. The close relationship between Bernd Schmidbauer, Chancellor Kohl's security adviser, and the heads of the Iranian secret service - a panacea forcefully condemned by Israel last year - was found to be of use by the Israelis after all. It enabled Mr Schmidbauer to bring Iranian and Syrian intelligence authorities together in Damascus before confirming that the exchange of bodies and prisoners could go ahead.

After French intervention

during Israel's April bombardment of Lebanon, the new German initiative has again brought a European Union nation into Middle East peace-making, in however minor a role.

Mr Schmidbauer's own personal role is also intriguing. In 1992, he was instrumental in freeing two German hostages, Heinrich Struwig and Thomas Kempner, who had been kidnapped by the family of a man imprisoned in Germany for hijacking an American TWA jet to Beirut in 1985. Again, Mr Schmidbauer used Iranian intelligence officers to complete the releases after Syria gave its consent to the negotiations.

It may not have been by chance that an Iranian television crew was filming the convoy of lorries as it carried the Hizbollah dead across the Israeli occupation line yesterday afternoon.

But the exchanges were not without potentially grave problems. The 45 prisoners from Khiam - some of whom had been held for more than 10 years without trial, and three of whom were women - were kept waiting in buses through the midday heat because the Israelis found that it was, in the words of one officer, "taking longer than we thought" to transfer 123 coffins from Israeli lorries to trucks hired by the Red Cross. The corpses had been interred in northern Israel.

Then the Red Cross, which had earlier supervised the removal of the two Israeli bodies from the Bir al-Abed suburb of the capital to Beirut airport, suddenly discovered that the 17 members of the Israeli-paid "South Lebanon Army" who were to be sent back to Israel's occupation zone didn't want to return. They sat in the Red Cross cars just west of the front lines, staring at the quizzical - and not entirely friendly - Hizbollah men looking at them intently through the vehicle windows, two of them in tears.

All said they wanted to remain in Beirut: the SLA had stated a few hours earlier that the prisoners had been brainwashed by the Hizbollah, a claim which lost none of its force when Hizbollah's own television station showed each of the 17 prisoners kissing the forehead of the Hizbollah's



Happy day: Laila Baalbaki with her brother Issam, freed after a body-swap with the Hizbollah

Photograph: AP

Italy's TV sleaze comes out of the box

ANDREW GUMBEL
Rome

Perhaps it was inevitable that the sleaze that oozes out of Italian television screens would begin to stick to the presenters and programme-makers. The semi-naked women, had game shows and voyeuristic exercises in humiliation that pass for small-screen family entertainment were the subject of no fewer than three criminal investigations this weekend, suggesting the existence of a seamy underbelly beneath the shiny teeth and glittery swansails.

Italy's most famous television presenter, Pippo Baudo, was being bombarded with allegations of unethical behaviour, including suggestions that he rigged a New Year tombola draw that was broadcast live to the nation; promoted personal friends to take part in variety show contests; and allowed himself to be bribed when picking contestants for this year's San Remo music festival.

One particularly squalid programme, *Telecamere a rischio* - "TV cameras on request", a sort of *Candid Camera* in which husbands-to-be are secretly filmed being chatted up by actresses to test their fidelity - was being pursued for inciting violence after one "guest" lost his temper once the trick was revealed, and knocked his would-be seducer to the ground.

Most damaging, though, were allegations that the pretty teenage girls adorning virtually every programme, from Sunday afternoon variety shows to evening satires on current events, are being systematically abused for sexual favours and "traded" among producers and personalities to pay off favours within both the state and the private broadcasting system.

According to magistrates working out of Biella in north-western Italy, girls as young as 15 are forced to have sex with talent scouts and their friends as the price for getting onto the small screen. Valerio Merola, a talent scout who works for Silvio Berlusconi's Italia Uno channel, has just spent 10 days in custody on charges of pimping and sexual violence. Gigi Sabani, a well-known presenter, is under house arrest, and Gianni Boncompagni, a producer, is being formally investigated.

The evidence produced by a flurry of witnesses, including several of the girls themselves, depicts unholily power games in which would-be models are coerced into squalid assignments in hotel rooms, then dumped and forgotten as often as they are helped up the career ladder.

One witness, Mr Sabani's former chauffeur, has suggested that television executives have passed the girls around their friends in exchange for cash, and even offered them to politicians with an interest in broadcasting, as a form of bribe.

The newspapers are dubbing the scandal *varietaioli*, in an echo of the *tangettopoli* investigation into political bribery a few years ago, and are rubbing their hands in anticipation of more revelations. But the chauffeur, Giuseppe Pagano, has yet to name names in public.

Mr Merola, interviewed shortly after his release from jail yesterday morning, did not deny having sexual relations with his protégées but insisted there was nothing criminal about his behaviour. He described one liaison, with a 15-year-old from Modena who has accused him of rape, as "intense but brief".

The case has prompted an extraordinary outpouring of views that reflect not only Italy's attitude to its small-screen entertainment but also its feelings about show business, women with careers, and sex in general. While Catholic groups have denounced the moral turpitude of the entertainment business, one prominent broadcaster has argued that weird sexual practices have been the hallmark of artists down the centuries and are thus a vital part of western culture.

Scavengers meet swift response

STEPHANIE NOLEN
Jerusalem

Following newspaper reports that hundreds of Palestinians were coming to the main Jerusalem rubbish dump each day to scavenge for food and junk to sell, the Israeli government has moved swiftly to tackle the problem - in its own way.

Two heavily armed Israeli guards who live in a settlement in the West Bank city of Hebron have now been posted at the

entrance to the dump, to keep out would-be scavengers - and, especially, foreign journalists.

"They are here to keep us away," said Ali Hamdan, 40, who travels from Hebron himself each day to search for scrap metal and old clothes to sell. "But mostly the guards are here because of the journalists. They really don't like the journalists." The *Independent* first reported the crowds at the dump two weeks ago, in a story about the worsening economic crisis in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip, caused by the Israelis having closed those areas. Most of the people at the dump used to work in Israel, before the closure was imposed following a series of suicide bombings in Israel in February and March.

Until last week, up to 800 people were coming to the dump each day. Now, only 30 or 40 people plough through the refuse; they sneak in over the hills to the south to avoid the guards. Mr Hamdan said that the guards periodically wave

their guns and chase people off the garbage heap, but largely ignore them. Their presence at the gates, he said, has been enough to keep most people away, especially the crowds of children who used to hunt for food in the garbage.

"I guard the Arabs, to make sure they don't take anything," the burly dump guard told *The Independent*. Then, fingering the trigger on his massive machine gun, he added: "You should go away, too. Right now."

Irritable Bowel Syndrome

If you suffer bowel problems such as constipation, irregular diarrhoea, stomach cramps, excessive wind and symptoms aggravated by food, you should know about a new book *The IBS Handbook*.

The book contains comprehensive information on the bowel... how it functions, what can go wrong, how the author feels it can best be treated and how to protect yourself from Irritable Bowel Syndrome. The author gives you his specific advice on what causes IBS and how to relieve embarrassing symptoms without drugs. This book tells you about alternative or natural remedies and how they work. The author shares with you techniques that can help bring fast relief when a problem arises. And he identifies common foods,

which he feels should be avoided at all costs. You'll discover how the digestive system works and what you should eat to restore regular habits. The book covers actual case histories of men and women who suffered Irritable Bowel Syndrome problems and how they were able to overcome

them. Many people are putting up with trouble-eater in the bowels because they are unaware of all the treatments on offer and the welcome relief that is now available.

Get all the facts - order your copy today. *The IBS Handbook* - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)

Flatten Your Belly!

If you want to flatten your stomach and trim your waist, you need to know about a new book written by a leading fitness expert. The book shows you a simple way to give yourself a flat and attractive stomach - even if other attempts to trim your "pot" belly failed.

This book shows you a simple exercise routine that takes less than 10 minutes to do - it need only be done three times a week to help transform your stomach from unsightly flab to a flat, trim waistline. Your posture will improve, too, while nagging back problems often disappear. Forget about expensive exercise equipment, health spas and starvation diets... this belly flattening programme will work for you or you pay nothing. What could be faster than that?

3 Simple Steps to Flatten Your Belly - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)

Impotence Problems?

A new book *The Potent Man* contains the latest information on impotence problems - what can go wrong, the causes and how it can best be treated. The book gives you specific facts on brand new treatments available - from new drugs and medical treatments to natural remedies that can be amazingly effective. FREE with this book - *The Twenty Minute Method For Men* - which shows how you can obtain relief from this distressing condition in just 20 minutes. *The Potent Man* - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)

Hair Loss?

A new book reveals the latest medical treatments and natural ways to grow hair. *The Complete Guide to Growing New Hair* shows you what to do if you think you are losing your hair... actual case histories of men and women who have experienced rapid hair growth following the hair rejuvenation programme outlined in this complete guide... a diet to speed up hair growth - how it works for others, and how it could give you new hair growth... what vitamin and mineral supplements you need now for hair growth... how any woman can stop hair loss and prevent hair

Panic Attacks?

If you suffer panic attacks or general anxiety that cause symptoms such as dizziness or feeling faint, rapid heartbeat, feelings of unreality, fear of losing control or avoiding all costs.

The book covers actual case histories of people who suffered panic and general anxiety problems and how they were able to overcome their problems.

Many people are putting up with troublesome panic attacks, general anxiety and phobias because they are unaware of new treatments and the welcome relief that is now available. Get all the facts. Order your copy today. *How to Overcome Anxiety, Panic Attacks & Phobias* - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)

Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves

Your arteries can eliminate, by themselves, the deposits obstructing them. In exactly the same way as a jet of water can loosen mud from a wall, your blood flow can rinse out your arteries if it is not full of harmful impurities. In a recent book Alexis Anziev explains how a natural diet can significantly improve arterial problems. Recent observations show that the traditional "anti-cholesterol" diets fail to clean out the arteries properly. It would appear, for example, that butter eaten in moderation is better for your arteries than margarine, contrary to what has been recommended for years. Alexis Anziev's fascinating book allows you to eat enjoyably while at the same time rinsing out your arteries. *Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves* - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)

Diabetes Problems?

A new book reveals the latest medical treatments and natural aids to make living with diabetes easier. It is of vital interest to all sufferers. Here are some of the topics covered in this *Complete Diabetes Handbook*.

• The most important symptoms of diabetes... including the difference between insulin

and non-insulin dependence.

• 12 things you should eat regularly, 14 to eat in moderation and 13 to avoid altogether.

• The connection between obesity and diabetes.

• Why diabetes need to take particular care of their feet - 12 do's and 6 don't's.

• Diabetes and sex - important precautions.

Get all the facts - order *The Complete Diabetes Handbook* - £9.95 post paid (coupon below)

© 1996 Correll Ltd, 28 Rochester Square, London SW1V 1PL

To: Correll Ltd, Dept HB141, Alresford, Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP

or telephone our 24 hour order line on 01206 825600 (quoting Dept code).

Please send me the book(s) indicated below, on the understanding that I can return them at any time within three months for a refund if not completely satisfied.

☐ How to Overcome Anxiety ☐ The Complete Guide to Growing New Hair ☐ The Complete Diabetes Handbook ☐ Your Arteries Can Clean Themselves

☐ The IBS Handbook ☐ The Potent Man ☐ The Vinegar Book ☐ 3 Simple Steps to Flatten Your Belly

I am ordering (please tick appropriate box):

☐ ONE book for £14.95 postpaid ☐ TWO books for £19.95 postpaid ☐ THREE books for £24.95 postpaid

If you would like to order more than 3 books, please add £2.50 for each additional book.

☐ I enclose my cheque/PO for £ () paid to Correll Ltd

☐ Please charge my Visa/Mastercard. Exp date: /

Name Mr/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Signed

Date

Small print: This offer is valid until 31st August 1996. It is not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Delivery is by first class post. Please allow 10-14 days for delivery. Please return the completed coupon to the address above.

Special Offer.
Save 10% now.
Vehicle rescue from just

£26.50*

JOIN TODAY CALL FREE

FREE INFORMATION PACK
0800 000 111

LINES OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9AM TO 5PM AND SUNDAY 9AM TO 5PM

REF: C3162



EXCLUSIVE SPONSOR OF THE ENGLAND FOOTBALL TEAM

Post today No stamp needed

TO: GREEN FLAG National Breakdown, FREEPOST, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS9 2GF. Please send me the INFORMATION PACK.

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)

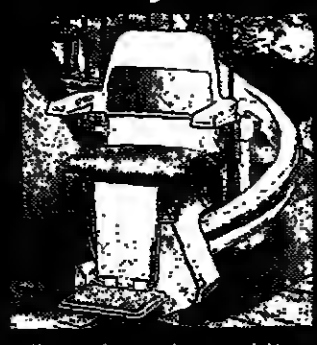
HOME TEL

ADDRESS

COUNTY POST CODE

*Plus a once only enrolment fee of £9.50 valued if you pay by Direct Debit. Cars registered before 31/7/97 are subject to additional fee of £12.50. £26.50 is inclusive of a 10% saving on Recovery Day.

Stannah.
Giving people
a lift for over
100 years.



Buy direct from the world's most experienced manufacturer.

CALL FREEPHONE

0800 715 495

for a free Survey or post the coupon

Are you enquiring for your Household ☐ or a relative living elsewhere ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

TELEPHONE

Post to: Stannah Stairlifts Limited Dept 8927, FREEPOST, SA344, Ardross, Hants SP10 3BR.



international

Jet crash inquiry faces long haul

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

TWA disaster: Bomb theory grows as search for evidence goes on

The task of solving the mystery of TWA Flight 800, which crashed off the coast of Long Island, New York, last week killing 230 people, will present a big challenge. American investigators have yet to explain why, in September 1994, a Boeing 737 plunged to earth over Pittsburgh killing all 132 people aboard — so it may take some time before the reasons for this disaster come to light.

On Wednesday, the explosion of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet over the Atlantic Ocean scattered wreckage over a wide area that may turn out to encompass 500 square miles to depths of between 100 feet and 200 feet.

To complicate matters further the weather has been variable — at times foggy, at times rainy — and the seas have been choppy to rough. Diving for wreck-

age has so far been impossible. Extraordinarily difficult preliminary salvage work will have to be completed before the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be able to examine the evidence. Evidence which, if they are skillful and fortunate, too, may provide them with sufficient clues to be able to announce the probable cause of the disaster.

By yesterday, despite a massive deployment of resources, 130 bodies remained unaccounted for, and of the 100 bodies recovered, only 23 had been positively identified. Only one per cent of the aircraft itself had been recovered.

The two black boxes containing the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder, have not yet been located. The aircraft's fuselage, which, in-

vestigators hope, will contain valuable evidence and most of the missing bodies, may, however, have been located with navy sonar devices. "May" — as in every utterance involving the investigation so far — remains the operative word, though. "They have found a trail of material on the [ocean] bottom," said Robert Francis, the NTSB vice-chairman heading on-site investigations.

Despite the lack of evidence, investigators have made it plain in their public statements, and in their off-the-record asides to reporters, that they believe TWA 800 was downed by a bomb. "The chances that this was a mechanical failure are slim," said Jim Kallstrom, the director of the FBI joint anti-terrorist task force investigating the crash. "The least likely thing, minus the forensics

— which we are waiting for — is mechanical. That is just common sense."

Why is it common sense? Clive Irving, a New York-based British author who has written a book about Boeing and the 747, articulates — with more inside knowledge than most — what has become conventional informed opinion.

"There is no previous example of a complete and instantaneous catastrophe involving a 747 that was not a bomb," Mr Irving said. "If it had been a structural failure the degree of disintegration would not have been so sudden, especially if you take into account the sheer size of the 747."

But the means employed by the presumptive "cowards", in Mr Kallstrom's words, to blow up the aircraft, remain at this stage an unfathomable mys-

tery. The mystery, meanwhile, has opened the door for television pundits to engage in a riot of guesswork.

One version put forward has it that a bomb was smuggled aboard the aircraft inside a metal box containing transplant organs. A box of this type would not have been subjected to the same electronic scrutiny as, say, the average suitcase.

Another idea is that the aircraft was shot down by a land-to-air missile, fired either from the Long Island shore or from a small boat.

One alternative suggestion is that a terrorist in Athens placed inside the jet a bomb that managed to escape detection all along the route — during the five-hour period up to TWA 800's arrival in New York, and prior to, and after, its departure on the fateful flight to Paris. Per-

haps the most intriguing theory propounded so far by a television expert — who was interviewed on Friday on Washington's Channel Eight — was that the aircraft had been struck by a meteorite falling to earth.

In the frenzy of speculation going on somehow it has almost been forgotten that the bereaved families of those who died in the disaster care little about what, or who, caused the crash. Much less do they wish to turn their attention to that other subject of keen interest to the news-bereft media at the moment — how to prevent future calamities.

The heart-rending priority of the families and friends now standing helplessly by, is to recover and identify the bodies of their loved ones — to begin their mourning and to give the dead decent burials.

But even that accepted consequence seems as though it will be some way off yet.

Setting Seattle straight on sex and politics

LOCAL HEROES

No 26: Dan Savage

Most of American politics, Dan Savage explains, boils down to sex. Abortion, gay rights, single mothers on welfare, women's roles, sex education, the whole family values thing — "at bottom it's all about sex".

"It's why Clinton is such a controversial President," he continues, as two elderly women moved away from his table at a Seattle sandwich bar. "You can perceive that this is a man who might actually enjoy sex. Bush and Reagan were sort of sexless. The last president who went for it was Kennedy."

Seattle, the Pacific Rim port a stone's throw from the Canadian border, has earned a reputation in recent years as America's hippest city. Californians have headed there in droves, abandoning perpetual sunshine for weather that is arguably worse than Britain's. Mr Savage dismisses it as provincial and dull. The clubs that gave birth to grunge rock are closed for refurbishment, he says. The cappuccino bars on every corner, in the home city of the Starbucks chain, are becoming passé. Even the heroin scene is overblown, he says.

This spring, however, *Newsweek* magazine devoted a cover story to the lures of Seattle. It named Dan Savage, sex-advice columnist and drag queen, as one of the city's most influential people, alongside Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates and the Mayor, Norm Rice.

Mr Savage's column, *Savage Love*, is billed as a gay man's answers to the sex problems of straight people. It appears in a local weekly, the *Stranger*, and in 16 alternative newspapers nationwide, including the *Village Voice* in New York, and the *Chicago Reader*, with a combined readership of over a million. He receives about 150 letters a week, some from as far away as Australia and Israel, and usually addressed: "Hey, Faggot".

Straight people need gays to guide them on non-procreative sex, he says. Straight sex is simply a matter of "put tab A in slot B". Gay men and women by contrast have to address their sexual desires, and how to fulfil them, from an early age.

The Americans' attitude to sex, he says, is both immature and weird. Sex education is taught as biology, all fallopian tubes and urethras, instead of

as a pleasurable pursuit. "It's like teaching people how to drive by teaching them the workings of the internal combustion engine," he said. "They take the car out and smash it into a wall."

His column, while mostly unprintable in a family newspaper, and often offensive, is also moralistic. In five years, he boasts, "I have raised a whole generation of young women to insist on their right to orgasm, first."

In a recent Seattle poll he was easily voted the city's favorite columnist. His term for straight people — "breeders" — has entered the local lexicon.

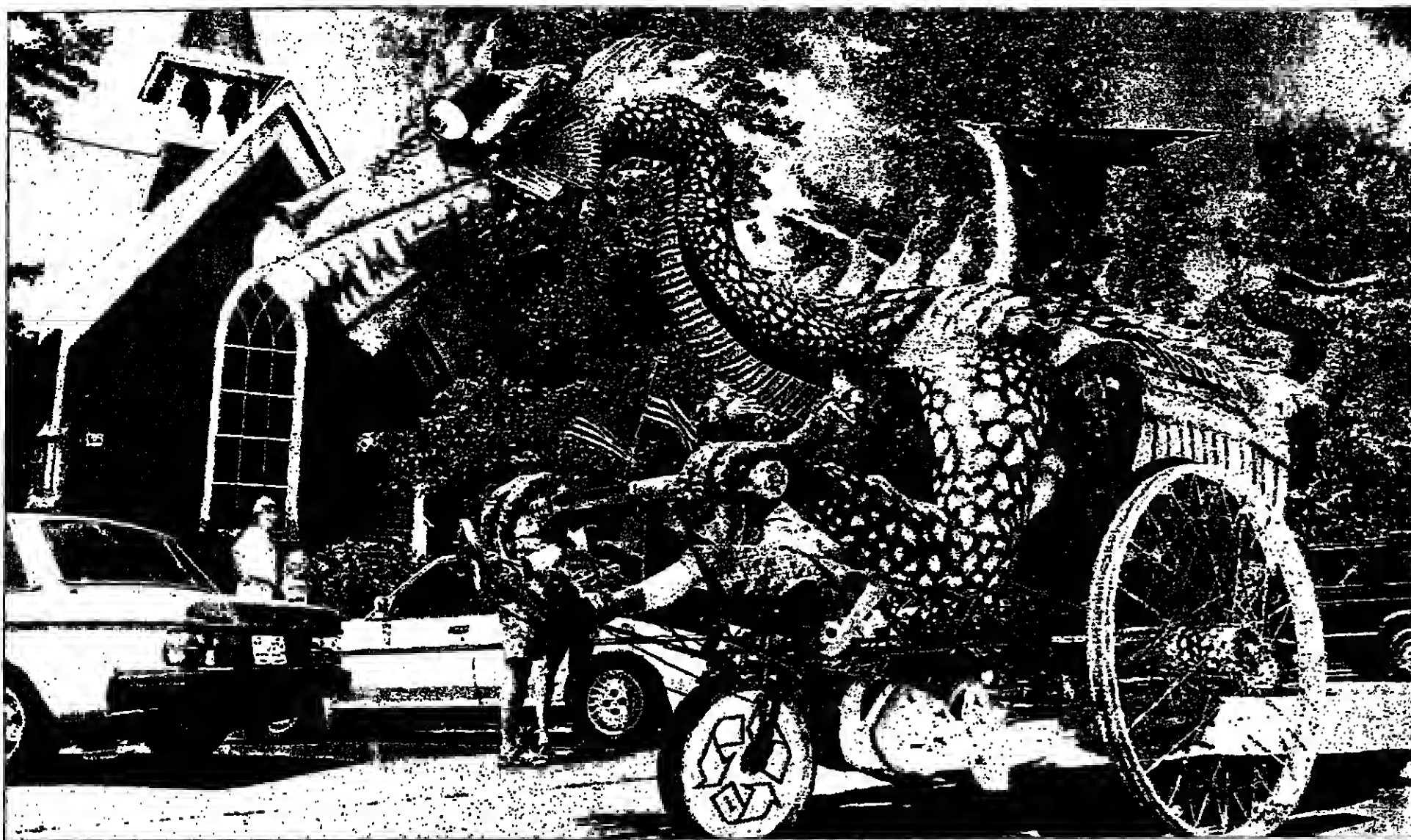
Once a month Mr Savage hosts gay bingo, in drag, for about 500 people, to raise funds for AIDS victims. The event has been sold out every evening since he started calling the numbers three years ago.

Seattle's deputy mayor recently presented him with a sequined T-shirt as thanks for his campaign for a local park. He has a Sunday night radio show, is in demand as a speaker at local universities, and recently signed on with a publisher for a two-book deal on sex and politics.

In New York, the 31-year-old Mr Savage might be lost in the wash. In Seattle, he stands out. The son of a Chicago policeman, from an Irish Catholic family, he once studied for the priesthood and worked for two years in Britain waiting tables.

This spring, Mr Savage joined the local Republican Party. By standing unopposed for the office of Precinct Committee Officer, he found himself a delegate at the county convention on the Pat Buchanan slate. He then hijacked an event that drew 1,600 local Republicans with a string of amendments to write support for same-sex marriage and the repeal of sodomy laws into the party platform, chronicling the ensuing mayhem in his column. "It's how the Christian Right took over the Republican Party," he said. "All they did was just go."

Tim Cornwell



Pedal-powered dragon: The 'Dragoons' team propel their kinetic sculpture through the streets of Corvallis, Oregon, in the DaVinci Days parade. Photograph: Tony Overman/AP

Cartoonists in peril: In cultures as diverse as Hong Kong and Algeria, a climate of fear means comic strips are no longer a joke

Artists' courage withers in Big Brother's shadow

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

"If you're scared, don't come in," says the sign at the entrance to an exhibition of cartoons by Zuzi. Hong Kong's best known and most controversial cartoonist. The sign seems exaggerated. After all, inside the exhibition hall there is nothing more than a series of cartoons.

However, outspoken cartoonists are an endangered species in Hong Kong. Only a handful of artists produce political cartoons and few publications will carry their work.

The dark shadow of China's rule, which begins next year, hangs over cartoonists as it does over many other artists who are likely to be regarded as dissidents. Larry Feign, an American who has been drawing

cartoons in Hong Kong for more than a decade, says he is demoralised. He claims newspapers will only publish cartoons which "take no sides and express no opinions".

This is not Feign's style. Last year he was fired by the *South China Morning Post* newspaper, where he had a big following, on account of his "Lily Wong" cartoon strip. It was killed off after a possibly prophetic strip about killings of cartoonists.

China has long recognised that cartoons are a valuable political weapon, although political cartoons started to emerge in China only about 60 years ago, during the Sino-Japanese war. The Chinese Communist Party quickly grasped the value of this medium; many officials in charge of arts matters in China are former cartoonists.

China's tradition of political cartoons is not one of belly laughs. It draws on a knowledge of Chinese history and philosophy, presenting ideas as allegories. This makes the cartoons impenetrable for non-Chinese readers.

Zuzi says he tries to be funny. He stresses that his main aim "is to give my opinion, and if I can change society to a more liberal society, that would be great". But he dislikes the idea of imposing his views on the readers, saying he really wants to make people think for themselves.

In China itself cartoonists are restrained, although Feign believes they "can go a little further than anyone else" in expressing controversial views.

He recalls the furor about seven years ago, when a cartoon was published which showed the Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping, playing bridge and smoking, using the traditional cartoonist's technique of exaggerating his features. Nowadays a caricature of this kind could scarcely be published.

As for Zuzi, his stock in trade is making fun of Chinese leaders. After the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, he published a particularly savage cartoon, showing Mr Deng and the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, sitting in an actor's dressing room, applying bloody-looking lipstick. Mr Deng is seen reading a script entitled "The World's Greatest Leader", while on the floor a democracy protester is dying.

Zuzi does not spare British leaders. The former governor, David Wilson, was depicted as a colonial buffoon in a feathered cap. Chris Patten, the current Governor, is usually shown as a fat man who is bewildered by his surroundings.

How long does Zuzi think he can get away with his style of work? "It depends entirely on the political situation," he says. "We can see that the situation is becoming worse in the field



Risky business: Zuzi shows China's premier, Li Peng, as an ape (above); a pen makes a stand for freedom

of freedom of speech. A lot of newspapers are changing their attitude towards China. More and more newspapers are reluctant to use political cartoons."

So, will he tone down his cartoons? "I don't think it's necessary to use cartoons as a means of earning a living", he

says. "If I can't publish in the newspapers, I won't squeeze myself by drawing things I don't like". He says he would be happy to switch to the Internet, or to producing banners for protesters. And if all these avenues are blocked and he lands in jail, Zuzi says: "I'll draw on the walls of the jail".

Politics is deadly subject in world of Arab despots

CHARLES RICHARDS

It is no laughing matter, being a political cartoonist in the Arab world. Earlier this month, Chawki Lamari, a cartoonist on the Algerian French language daily, *La Tribune*, was arrested at home and hauled off to Serkaji, a top-security prison which gained notoriety after 100 Islamist prisoners were killed when the authorities re-established order after a riot.

Publication of *La Tribune* was suspended. Police took the publisher of the newspaper, Khairiddine Ameyar, and the editor, Baya Gacemi, for questioning. A judge later ordered them to report to the police twice a week. The three men will stand trial together on 29 July.

The issue was a cartoon showing Algerian flags strung between houses along a street. One asks: "Is this for 5 July?" (Algerian Independence Day, a date central to the armed forces' claim to legitimacy).

An examining magistrate ruled that the cartoon was in breach of Article 160 of the Penal Code. This stipulates prison terms of 5 to 10 years for "anyone who deliberately and publicly tears up, defaces or defiles the national symbol".

A statement by the Algerian journalists union, the *Assemblée Générale des Journalistes*, which denounced the legal

proceedings, said the move would not stop journalists from "continuing their struggle until their colleague Amari is released and legal action against *La Tribune* dropped".

In some respects the case was distinctly Algerian. But the case is symptomatic of the dangers cartoonists face when they cross the line in ridiculing the authorities in an Arab world ruled largely by despots.

The golden age of the political caricature was the pre-revolutionary period in Egypt. This permitted Egyptian irreverence for authority and satirical genius to find expression in weekly news magazines. The British were easy targets, but so were the political leaders, although the king was off-limits.

Nasser's coup in 1952 banned parties and limited freedom of expression. Thereafter the number of subjects which could be tackled in the press without risking the censor's blue pencil (or worse) shrank.

Today Egyptian cartoonists can allude to corruption in high places, which cannot be proved but which everyone knows about, more easily than can columnists, who would have to name names. In a culture where the rate of illiteracy is high, cartoons still have great power.

Censors are well attuned to the influence that a well-wrought political caricature

may exert. Such was the popularity of the Moroccan satirical magazine *Akhbar al-Suq* (News from the Market) that it was banned.

In the most celebrated case, the Palestinian cartoonist, Naji Ali, was gunned down in London in 1987, apparently for alluding to Yasser Arafat's Egyptian mistress.

In some parts of the Middle East, editors commission cartoonists to send a message they dare not convey in writing. The freest Arabic press is now found in London, although most of it is owned by Saudi interests which do not tolerate discussion of subjects sensitive to them.

Abd al Khazem, editor of *Al-Hayat*, says that when the paper was published in Beirut "the tradition was that the editor and the cartoonists would discuss ideas together". Since the cartoonists' consultation with the editor has diminished.

Although there is no heavy-handed political authority exercising the censor's scissors, the ownership of the paper instils a measure of self-censorship which ensures that no anti-Saudi material is covered. "We deal overwhelmingly with Arab political issues, such as Israel's attack on southern Lebanon, not with domestic terrorism, human rights, or democracy," he says.

Official Worldwide Sponsor
1996 Olympic Games

Harman boost in Shadow elections

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Harriet Harman's chances of securing her seat in the Shadow Cabinet were given a boost yesterday by John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Labour Party. Mr Prescott has given his full backing for the Shadow Cabinet "slate" to be voted in during Wednesday's elections to avoid giving ammunition to the Tories with splits in the party.

Mr Prescott gave a clear lead to the party's left-wing to vote for the status quo and avoid rocking the boat. The *Independent* learned that one left-wing challenger, Irene Addams, had dropped out of the race, giving Ms Harman, the shadow health spokeswoman, a freer run.

"I was going to stand but I thought there was going to be a whole card of candidates. What I was not going to do is stand alone. It would be seen only as a challenge to Harriet Harman which it never was," said Ms Addams.

Ms Harman's only challenger now will be Ann Chwyd, who is backed by the Campaign Group of left-wing Labour MPs. The "status quo" slate to be re-elected, said Mr Prescott, would include Jack Cunningham, following the standing down of overseas development spokeswoman Joan Lester.

Labour leader, Tony Blair, and Mr Prescott, have met front-benchers to seek their support for the "status quo" slate, recognising that the move could deny some shadow ministers the chance of a place in the first Labour cabinet for 18 years.

Mr Prescott was instrumental in persuading the leadership to go ahead with the elections

and for implementing the strategy to avoid damaging battles for places in the Shadow Cabinet in the election run-up.

Ms Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school caused the backlash that now threatens her place on the Shadow Cabinet. If Ms Harman were dropped, critics argue, Mr Blair would come under renewed attack for choosing to send his son, Evan, to the London Oratory, an opted-out school, and yet more criticism for thinking of sending his second son, Nicky, now aged nine, to the same school. "It makes sense for the younger boy to go the same school as his brother, although we haven't finally decided that," Mr Blair said.

To add to the tension, allegations of vote-rigging, reported in Saturday's *Independent*, have continued. Diane Abbott, member of the National Executive Committee, and Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, said Ms Harman seemed to have her own assisted-places scheme. "If they stuff ballot boxes, of course she'll make it back. In a straightforward secret ballot I don't think she would [return]," said Ms Abbott.

But Ms Harman reinforced her claim to be judged on her record as shadow health spokeswoman by issuing new figures from her office showing that there had been a new rise in hospital waiting lists, in spite of the Government's drive to reduce them. In the South Thames region, the number waiting more than a year had gone up from 23 to 430 between March and May. She said it showed that the Tories were failing in their own priorities.



Harriet Harman: Backed by Prescott for re-election



Ann Chwyd: Intervention could limit her vote

Jewish group seeks Internet block on racism

ANDREW BROWN

A Jewish think-tank has called for the Internet to be brought under the same legal controls as book publishing. Lack of legislation, the Institute of Jewish Policy Research says, is giving users of the electronic network a unique chance to broadcast material from anti-semitic and other obnoxious groups.

The Institute wants the companies that sell Internet access to be treated as the publishers of the material accessed through their services, and not to act as if they were no more responsible than telephone firms.

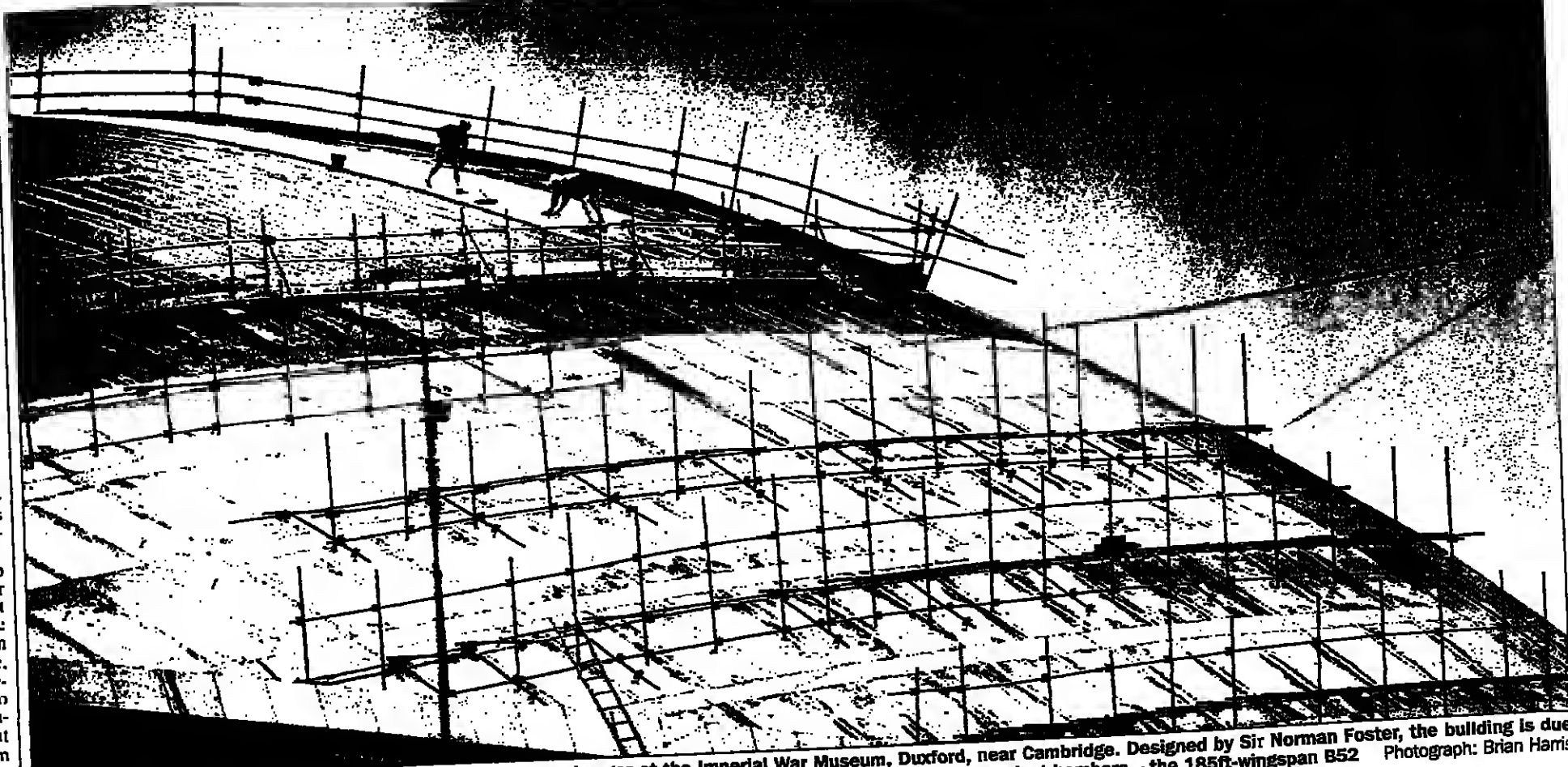
In a report published tomorrow, the Institute says: "The Internet has provided a relatively regulation-free environment for the publication of racist material and the organisation of the activities of neo-Nazi and other far-right organisations, and terrorist and extremist groups."

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

MARE ST. LONDON E8 4SA
(Charity Ref. No. 231322)

Since 1905 we have shared the grief and eased the pain of countless suffering souls. Last year alone 900 found peace with the help of your vital gifts. Most of them died of cancer - but so serenely that you would hardly know. Your concern is as encouraging as your generosity and we thank you for your inspiring trust.

Sister Superior.



Sky high: Builders finishing the £11m United States Air Force hangar at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, near Cambridge. Designed by Sir Norman Foster, the building is due for completion in mid-1997, and will hold all 19 of the museum's USAF aircraft, including one of the world's heaviest bombers - the 185ft-wingspan B52. Photograph: Brian Harris

Elected mayors urged in councils' radical report

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Britain moved closer yesterday to having directly elected mayors, with publication of a local-authority-backed study arguing for "radically new models" of local government.

"Current arrangements are not delivering what local government is going to need," argues Steve Bullock, joint author, a former leader of Lewisham.

Changes could range from directly elected mayors to a council-appointed Cabinet system. A new separation is needed between the political leadership

which runs the council and the elected assembly of other councillors, which can then hold a more visible and powerful leadership to account, the report argues - a model closer to the relationship of the Government with the House of Commons.

Such a change would make councillors more accountable for their actions.

The call for change comes as Tony Blair, the Labour leader, is expected to renew his commitment to experiments with elected mayors in a speech to local government on Tuesday.

Last week a House of Lords committee called for councils to be able to experiment with leadership and election procedures.

The present system produces decisions behind closed doors. The public often sees only a "stilted defence", and it is "extremely difficult" to judge

whether a leader has delivered. Councillors face unpaid workloads of 20 to 30 hours a week to maintain the "legal fiction" that they are all responsible, the report argues.

□ *Revitalising Local Democracy: The Leadership Options*, ADC, 26 Chapter Street SW1P 4ND

Foreign posts to see huge cutback

COLIN BROWN

A warning to halt cuts in diplomatic posts abroad, designed to make savings for tax reductions, will be delivered to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in a hard-hitting report by a cross-party Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has told the committee, chaired by former minister David Howell, that an efficiency programme has identified potential annual savings rising to £28 million a year.

"The bulk of these savings have been required to enable the FCO to live within its previous baselines," the FCO said. "In 1996-97, the shortfall will be made up by a number of cuts to operating expenditure, including information programmes, travel and entertainment." No decisions have yet been taken on where expenditure reductions will fall in 1997-98.

Members of the committee were alarmed that the spending cuts on diplomatic posts abroad would be higher than previously stated. They were told that running costs were due to fall by £17 million in this financial year, and £11 million in 1997-98. But FCO officials said the cuts amounted to £34 million this year and £25 million next year when exchange rates and inflation overseas were taken into account.

The Treasury has also criticised the costs of overseas diplomatic posts, though these days the posts are often geared to exporting British goods.

Last week a leaked report showed that middle-ranking Treasury officials, dubbed "kids" by the Chancellor, were warning that by hitching up to European markets Britain could lose its chance to win lucrative trade with emerging economies in the Far East and South America. The select committee was appalled to find that dozens of posts in British embassies and consulates had been cut.

Since October 1993, the FCO has found efficiency savings of £22.4 million, representing nearly 11 per cent of corporate overheads and overseas support services. The number of staff slots in the UK has fallen by more than 18 per cent in the past three years. And the budget for the diplomatic wing of the FCO this year is due to fall from £1,431 million to £1,114 million - the lowest level since 1990-91. Some of the savings are being made by replacing UK staff in foreign posts with diplomats hired locally.

The Foreign Affairs Select Committee is also alarmed by the budget cuts proposed for the BBC World Service that are due to fall this year by £8 million to £170 million, and then by £9 million next year. It is carrying out a separate report on the BBC World Service.

habitat sale

PLEASE TELEPHONE 0645 334433 FOR YOUR NEAREST HABITAT STORE.



sale



Selected lighting 50% off



Norfolk single bed linen set £15



ends



Moyo cable £225 £149



Ashanti chair £49 £29



Sunday



Kayo rattan chair £59 £29



Gustav extending table £269 £199



28 July

Newts on the crest of multi-million-pound new home



Taking nature in hand: Three of the 30,000 great crested newts being moved to "protected" ponds at Orton, Peterborough. Photograph: Brian Harris

A £3m operation to move 15,000 great crested newts out of the way of one of the biggest development projects in Europe is under way in a Cambridgeshire brick-field.

Every day this summer, in a vast clay pit next to the perpetually smoking brickworks at Orton, dozens of the small amphibians fall into pitfall traps. They are then moved a short distance to a site which will escape the bulldozers clearing the land for a £500m private-sector new town on the edge of Peterborough.

The land's owner, Hanson, is spending millions on the new town because it is anxious to remain within the law. The great crested newt is rare, in decline and protected by an Act of Parliament. And Hanson had the misfortune of finding what is probably Europe's single biggest colony of the newt inhabiting its development site.

As well as the rescue work, the multi-national company has had to sacrifice adjacent land worth, potentially, more than £10m to a dedicated 300-acre newt reserve. That brings the price tag for each creature saved up to £1,000.

The costly protection measures have been negotiated with English Nature, the Government's wildlife conservation watchdog. But the World Wide Fund for Nature regards the

Hanson new town carries a hidden cost, reports Nicholas Schoon

agreement as a scandal and is looking to prosecute the Government for allowing development on the newt-inhabited land to go ahead.

The conservation group has already complained to the European Commission alleging that European Union nature protection laws are being breached. It wants Hanson to find somewhere else to build the one-fifth of its township destined for the newts' habitat, or to shrink the development.

Out of the question, says James Hopkins, Hanson's managing director for the township project. "You can't just suddenly plunk 1,100 homes somewhere else. We will have to rethink the whole master plan."

The clay pits still supply the Hanson-owned brick-making industry in Peterborough. Some have already been filled with coal ash from power stations. Those that remain are being drained and engineered to make them a secure foundation for the 5,200 homes, plus schools, shops, leisure-centre and offices which will make up the township.

Last week the newts were being removed by Hanson's wildlife consultants from where a large embankment will be built to define the edge of the reserve. A foot-high fence of slippery material is placed along the boundary of the trapping

area. When a newt encounters this it climbs over, falls, and then crawls along the bottom of the fence until it drops into one of numerous plastic bowls.

The old pits may look blighted and ripe for reuse, but they are a rich wildlife refuge amid the intensively farmed surrounding fenland. Water fowl, birds of prey, rare dragonflies and hares also thrive in along with the newts boggy landscape among the thousands of conical, 20-ft hillocks made of clay and soil left over after the prime brick-making material was extracted.

Between the hillocks are the pools where the newts breed. No one appreciated how high their numbers were - around 30,000 - until development plans were well under way. Then English Nature declared the 400-acre area a site of special scientific interest. This was awkward, since SSSIs are designated to protect nature from damage and development.

But along with the designation came English Nature's deal with Hanson. In compensation for destroying the bulk of the SSSI, the company would create a permanent reserve for the amphibians.

This, say the two organisations, is a great gain for conservation, because the newts would be doomed if they were left alone. As time passes, the pits fill with water and small fish start to colonise the pools. These then eat the newts' eggs. If the area were abandoned to nature, then within a hundred years the huge newt population would almost vanish.

DAILY POEM

Beach Roses

By Mark Doty

What are they, the white roses,
when they are almost nothing,
only a little denser than the fog,

shadow-centred petals blurring
towards the edges, into everything?

This morning one broken cloud
built an archipelago
fourteen gleaming islands

hurling across a blank plain of sheen:
nothing, or next to nothing

— pure scattering, light on light,
fleeing.

And now, a heap of roses
beside the sea, white rugosa
beside the foaming hem of shore:
waxen candles . . .

And we talk
as if death were a line to be crossed.
Look at them, the white roses.
Tell me where they end.

Mark Doty's last collection of poetry, *My Alexandria*, won the 1995 TS Eliot Prize and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award. He is the highest lyric poet to emerge in the United States in recent years, and his graceful and apparently effortless use of language has at its heart a rare classicism and stillness. "Beach Roses" comes from his latest collection, *Atlantis*, published this month by Jonathan Cape at £7 and highly recommended.

WE'LL HELP YOU INTO YOUR NEW HOME, BUT WE PROMISE NOT TO LOCK YOU IN.

NO REPAYMENT FEE MORTGAGE.

5.99% 6.3% APR

(1% discount off our variable mortgage base rate, guaranteed until 30.09.99.)

We've introduced a deal which gives you a 1% discount off our variable mortgage base rate for 3 years.

And there's even better news.

If you find your circumstances alter sometime in the future, you'll be able to change your mortgage or even pay all or part of it off, without incurring any penalty.

It's just one of a wide range of options that makes the Halifax the right place to make your move.

For more details, call into your local branch or phone us free on 0800 10 11 10 for an information pack.

The advantage of our new mortgage deal is that we'll leave the door open for you.



Get a little extra help.

<http://www.halifax.co.uk>

EXAMPLE: A COUPLE (MALE AND FEMALE) BOTH NON-SMOKERS, AGED 25, APPLYING FOR A REPAYMENT MORTGAGE OF £50,000 SECURED OVER 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF £50,000. MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT NET OF PAYEE'S £277.04. 300 MONTHLY PAYMENTS. MONTHLY REPAYMENT £55.72. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £15,150.00. INCLUDES ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY FEE £250.00, CONVEYANCER'S CHARGES £117.50, MORTGAGE DISBURSEMENT FEE £40.00, CHARGE FOR DISPATCH OF TITLE DEEDS £15.00 AND INITIAL INTEREST OF £1,312.50. ASSUMING COMPLETION 16.09.96. EXAMPLE ASSUMES A RATE OF 5.99% APR THROUGHOUT THE MORTGAGE TERM AND THAT A VALUATION FEE OF £100 HAS BEEN PAID. A FURTHER 1% VALUATION UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £400 IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN 01.07.96 AND 30.09.96. THE RATE QUOTED IS VARIABLE. THE 1% DISCOUNT IS GUARANTEED UNTIL 30.09.99. APR SHOWN IS TYPICAL FOR A REPAYMENT MORTGAGE FOR 25 YEARS. THE DISCOUNTED RATE QUOTED IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO HOME OWNERS AND FIRST TIME BUYERS BORROWING UP TO 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, ON MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED ON OR AFTER 25.09.96. PROVIDED COMPLETION TAKES PLACE BY 31.12.96. IT IS NOT AVAILABLE TO NEGATIVE EQUITY CUSTOMERS. DIFFERENT TERMS APPLY TO OTHER CUSTOMERS. ALL PRODUCTS AND OTHER OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND MAY BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT NOTICE. MAXIMUM LEND 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, FOR WHICH A FEE WILL BE CHARGED. HOME LOANS AND EXPENSIVE MORTGAGES: LOWER LIMITS APPLY WHERE THE PURCHASE PRICE AND VALUATION EXCEED £150,000. ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY IS REQUIRED IF THE LOAN EXCEEDS OUR BASIC LENDING LIMIT OF 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, FOR WHICH A FEE WILL BE CHARGED. LONG TERM MORTGAGES: LONG TERM MORTGAGES ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE PAID BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY HOME LOAN SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, IS SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY

the leader page

Danger: there's a risk of being consumed by it

The world's a scary place. Hardly a day passes without another strange or tragic story of sudden unexpected disaster sprawled across the newspapers. Hapless holiday-makers are bombed at an airport in Spain. Language students are killed when their plane to Paris explodes. Saturday-morning shoppers in Manchester are injured by an IRA bomb. A woman walking home one afternoon with her children in peaceful Kent is beaten to death. Ordinary people doing ordinary things are struck unexpectedly by danger and disaster.

These bolts from the blue are even more disturbing and disorienting when children are involved. It seems unimaginable that a child could be raped and murdered on her school exchange trip while sleeping in a room with other pupils. Or that a child asleep in a tent in her back garden could be stolen, abused, and killed in the middle of the night.

These events are deeply distressing, and we should be distressed by them. But most of us then go on to worry about the same things happening to us. Are we right? Should we move around in a state of subdued anxiety, a kind of alert fear against the risks that seem to crowd in on us? The real risks, after all, are low: we have about as much chance of being murdered within the week as we have of winning the lottery (ie, very little chance at all). Walking is more

dangerous than cycling, which is more dangerous than travelling by car, which is far more dangerous than flying.

Terrible and disturbing though the Dunblane tragedy was, children are still safer in the classroom than in their home. And they are less at risk from strangers than from parents.

The number of child murders has hardly changed in 20 years. Between 1983 and 1993, around 85 children were murdered each year; most of them infants killed at their parents' hands. In the entire decade between 1983 and 1993, only 57 children under 14 were murdered by people they didn't know. It is true that there is a much higher chance your child will be abducted today – but the kidnapper is likely to be your estranged husband or wife.

Such are the facts. But our fears do not reflect them. Parents who cheerfully trotted to school alone a generation ago now escort their own children every inch of the way. In 1971, 80 per cent of seven- and eight-year-olds were going to school alone; today fewer than 10 per cent do. Meanwhile, those few parents who let their kids walk home alone are roundly condemned by neighbours whizzing back in the (lethal) car.

The easiest explanation of this gap between the facts and our fears is the media. When the details of the deaths of Jade Matthews, Sophie Hook and Caroline Dickinson are plastered across the front pages or shouted from

the television news, it is hard not to be alarmed. There aren't many front-page headlines about how ordinary life is, and how many children arrived safely at school this morning. Nor are there many mentions in the national press about the countless children killed in road accidents.

But there's a curious puzzle here. Newspapers devote pages and pages to the impact and aftermath of IRA bombs. Yet people still shop in Manchester, still ride double-decker buses round London, and still (in our case) work in Docklands. We know more bombs may go off, but we rarely think

about it, and we certainly don't change our lives because of it. London parents don't plan to move to the country just to reduce the risk of their son or daughter being bombed.

Mad cows are another good example. The Government admitted that there might be a link between mad cows and CJD back in March. The newspapers and television news hullets oozed with anxiety, and gave the issue at least as much coverage as any child murder. For a short time we did stop eating beef. But now, only four months later, beef sales have bounced back up again. We know no more now

than we did in March about the extent of the risks to our health, but it seems that most of us are prepared to shrug our shoulders.

The notice we take of the media when assessing the risks around us varies dramatically from one topic to another. With bombs and BSE, it appears that we would rather depend on our own experience than be swayed by news reporting. The idea that the department store we are about to walk into could explode around us is almost inconceivable. So is the notion that the tasty steak in front of us could turn our brains to jelly. But where children are concerned, it seems we can imagine the dangers only too well.

It could simply be that we react more passionately to any suggestion that our children are at risk. Threats we perceive to ourselves as healthy adults from bombs or cows are far easier to deal with and rationalise than threats to our trusting young sons and daughters. Present us with a story about a battered child and rationality deserts us.

Perhaps, too, we have become more sensitive generally to the potential damage to which children are exposed every day. Child abuse was never mentioned 20 years ago, so people didn't fear it. Silence on the subject, however, did not mean child abuse did not exist. Indeed, it was arguably more prevalent than it is today.

Even so, the lurking stranger terri-

fies us most. Bull-bars on jeeps, malign parents, other children at school: all these are benign compared with the unknown. Maybe it helps to remember, when the headlines are all turning bad, that motor cars kill more than madmen, and that bombs do far less damage than booze.

A soupçon of sleaze in the soup

Dinner with the PM – £100,000; an evening with Ken Clarke or Gillian Shephard – around £10,000. Presumably other Tory MPs can be rented out, too, if the price is right. On the face of it, there is nothing wrong with this kind of political fund-raising – until it starts to corrupt the relationship between the party and its donors.

What favours can businessmen expect for their cash? "Entertainment," says one contact dinner organiser. What he means is, that's how you can describe the night out in the company accounts; as a description of a couple of hours with the PM it seems, at best, debatable. "Political intelligence," says another. That means the chance for some Major name-dropping – to be able to boast to contacts of your proximity to power.

As it happens, there is a better description. The word is "sleaze".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public still at risk in the BSE saga

Sir: I took the Department of Health seven years (1985-92) to tell the 2000 or so families that the human growth hormone (HGH) injections received by their children were contaminated by CJD ("The hidden harvest of death", 20 July).

The development of CJD (and the other spongy-brain diseases) depends not only on the dose of the virus, but also on the genotype – a rare one – of the individual and the probability is that most if not all of the hitherto unaffected "victims" of this disaster are genetically not susceptible to CJD. I therefore suggested in your columns (Letters, 19 August 1993) and in a letter to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) that it would be a kindness to the suffering families to offer to establish the genotype of each potential "victim". Buried in the circumlocution of the CMO's dismissive answer to my letter is the immortal phrase "... the situation is being kept under review ...". Four years on the families are still waiting for such an offer.

It was known to the neurological fraternity of the world by 1969 that CJD was an infection with this unique and sinister virus. Even if we allow a whole further year for this information to have percolated around the Medical Research Council and the Department of Health it takes us to, say, 1 July 1971. Why then was Mr Justice Morland so ungenerous as to pick on 1 July 1977 as the deadline for possible litigation?

Patricia Wynn Davies emphasises that this HGH catastrophe has nothing to do with BSE. But there is one sinister connection: negligence by the Ministry of Health in the HGH saga has caused members of the public to develop CJD and negligence of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has put and is still putting members of the public at risk of developing CJD in the BSE saga.

H C GRANT
London NW3

Abortion: the right to choose

Sir: Further to the article "Abortion: why we must think again" (18 July), I would like to object to Bryan Appleyard's rather low opinion of human nature.

Pre-natal testing tends to take place late on in pregnancy, beyond the weeks when abortions are usually performed. Any foetus involved is therefore a wanted child. Many choose to have a test for disorders such as Down's Syndrome because they realise that, however much they want the child, the demands of a severely handicapped person are greater than they are able to meet.

You cannot equate such a test with testing for schizophrenia or heart disease, or other treatable conditions. I find it highly unlikely that, even if these tests were available, many would choose to use them, and equally unlikely that, if they were administered and the results were positive, abortion would be the preferred option.

For the overwhelming majority the "perfect" baby is not one with blond hair, blue eyes, a high IQ and a heterosexual disposition, as Bryan Appleyard implies, but a child to whom they are able to give the care and attention it needs.



Scientific research and development is of huge benefit to mankind. Let us not halt this development by our distrust of human ability to make sensible decisions when given the advantage of greater knowledge.

CLARE MURPHY
Oxford

Sir: The bottom line with abortion is the right to have control over your own body and not to be forced to give birth against your will. What is needed is true publicly-funded abortion on demand.

In deploring the 98 per cent of abortions made for "social reasons", Bryan Appleyard's point. Many of these abortions are carried out because of the lack of financial and emotional support available for those trying to care for babies, both handicapped and able-bodied. If he was serious about decreasing the number of "unnecessary" abortions he would be better employed campaigning for crèche facilities, paid maternity leave and the like, rather than heaping more emotional torment on those who already have to make an impossibly difficult decision.

S M DAVIDS
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

Give London a world-class Tube

Sir: Hamish McRae's article on reducing London's dependence on the Tube is seductive, but dangerous ("All change for our urban way of travel", 19 July).

I agree that there will be a revival of walking and cycling, and so we do need to change the way we use

road space to make that easier and safer and more enjoyable. We also need a big improvement in conditions for travel by bus. However, the danger is that developments of this kind are used as an excuse to avoid making investment in upgrading and improving the Tube and rail systems that serve London.

If London is to retain and enhance its position as a world-class city for residents, visitors and businesses alike, it must have a world-class transport system. An essential element is a short-term increase in funding for London Transport to catch up on the backlog of renewal needed to the existing system. With this, by early in the new millennium, there could be a reduction in public funding as operating profits increase.

Finally, London's international competitiveness depends greatly on its public services operating reliably and efficiently. We cannot afford to be on strike. The Tube and postal services may have a virtual monopoly in London, but London does not have a monopoly among world cities. Business will be lost if these disputes are not resolved now.

IRVING YASS
Director of Transport
London First
London SW1

Sir: As ward councillor for Clerkenwell, I share Hamish McRae's satisfaction that the inner city population decline is being halted by warehouse or office conversions to "loft apartments". But this doesn't necessarily mean "no need for a Tube: you can walk

to work." One of the interesting phenomena of the future may be reverse commuting, with people preferring to live centrally because they enjoy the shopping and entertainment facilities and city buzz, but not tied to working there.

He also predicts a multi-centred region with strong "centres" on the fringe. If Croydon and Hammersmith become "new cultural magnets as well as office centres", it is entirely conceivable that any constituent who lives in the shadow of Smithfield market will travel to Hammersmith to the theatre.

I entirely accept that needless, polluting, energy-consuming and unpleasant travel should be curbed, but I am wary of the Green argument that all travel is inherently bad. Travel to expand horizons by seeing new things and meeting new people is a liberating thing to do. Personally, I love rocketing along in a fast Tube train. I even don't mind sometimes when it's crowded; it reminds me I'm in a real city. And, crucially, it keeps me out of a car. Hamish McRae risks giving comfort to the road lobby by his rejection of the "Victorian invention".

SARAH LUDFORD
London N1

Bosnia needs long-term help

Sir: Surely most commentators accept that neither the widespread return of refugees in Bosnia nor

significant economic regeneration in the country was a likelihood within one year of the peace deal signed in Dayton last November? While the international community may have subscribed to the rhetoric that a year was long enough to re-integrate the two entities of Bosnia, few people on the ground ever believed this to be realistic ("Refugees can never go home," says UN, 17 July; letter, 19 July).

Oxfam has worked in Bosnia since 1993 and witnesses daily the misery that stems from "ethnic cleansing". This, and our experience of over 50 years work throughout the world, has convinced us that an ethnically plural Bosnia remains the only genuine long-term solution for the region. For where have modern nation states defined by ethnic identity been viable? They tend to rely on forced mass migration, murder, or, at worst, genocide for their establishment, and the domination of remaining minorities to maintain them.

For the international community to recognise that it must engage with Bosnia for longer than one year is a step forward. However, losing sight of the vision of a single Bosnia must signify several steps back. The 1.8m people who have been displaced during the last four years have a right to return to their homes should they so wish. The challenge is how to create the conditions of physical and economic security which will allow people a genuine opportunity to exercise this right.

To date, international policy has been conducted with an eye on the US electoral timetable, or underpinned by the desire to shunt refugees from countries of asylum back to Bosnia. Until the international community starts behaving as if it has a long-term commitment to a single pluralistic Bosnia, "ethnic cleansing" will be endorsed and the people of Bosnia remain short-changed.

DAVID BRYER
Director
Oxfam UK & Ireland
Oxford

All writing must have narrative

Sir: You quote from Bill Buford's article in the New Yorker, in which he claims that "it is possible that narrative is as important to writing as the human body is to representational painting". ("Modern literary culture has lost the plot", 18 July). Surely this is not comparing like with like?

I would argue that narrative is to writing what composition is to painting. A painter may say that he is not interested in narrative – but composition and narrative are still the fundamental component of each medium. As a progression of information, a piece of fiction can have a bad narrative or a dull narrative – but it cannot have no narrative, any more than a painting on canvas can ever have no composition.

STEPHEN VOLK
Bradford on Avon,
Wiltshire

The defrocking of Frolo

Sir: No one expects a film version of a famous novel to be true to its origins, much less do you expect it from a Disney animation, but I have noticed a very odd anachronism, occurring in the earlier film versions of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and repeated in the Disney version.

In Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame*, the wicked Claude Frolo is a priest, the archdeacon of the Cathedral. When the Lionel Clayton and Charles Laughton film versions of the book were made there was, I believe, a set of strange rules in operation, one of which was that religious personages must not be shown in a bad light. For this reason Frolo became a judge, which makes complete nonsense of the story, since in medieval times a layman would have no authority in the Cathedral.

A film made in 1957 with Tony Quinn gave Claude Frolo his correct profession, and also kept the novel's tragic ending, which the other films avoid. Strange that the animated version has followed the 1923 and 1939 film versions, rather than the 1957 one – or the book.

ELSTIE KARBACZ
Colchester, Essex

Rules of the road

Sir: I was intrigued by the view of Richard Mann regarding Tuscan cycling habits (Letters, 18 July). In my experience, Italian motorists have a similar talent for weaving around one another "with barely a cross word or an angry glare". Is he quite as willing to rejoice at four-wheeled road users "going about their business" with the same relaxed indifference to traffic rules? DAVID WILLIAMS
London N8

Romancing the past

Sixty years ago, thousands of men and women went to fight in the Spanish Civil War. Are there any ideals for which we would take up arms today? By Paul Valley

William Keegan, 28, unemployed miner, a Communist, persuaded hundreds of people in his village of Baillieston outside Glasgow to part with their co-op divvy for the suffering workers in Spain. Killed in action at Brunete, Madrid. Felicia Browne, 32, painter and sculptor, graduate of the Slade, first English person to fire a rifle at the fascist troops led by General Franco. Killed 23 days later rescuing a fellow fighter wounded on patrol. John Longstaff, 17, marched from Stockton to London at the age of 15 to demand a job in 1934. One of the youngest Britons to volunteer to fight in Spain. Patience Edney, nurse, from a staunchly Tory family, began to think seriously about poverty as a result of church discussion groups. Flew to Spain where she trained nurses tending the troops maimed by Franco's forces. Henry Burke, 26, actor with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the left's Unity Theatre. One of the first to volunteer. Left for Spain the day after the historic Cable Street battle with Mosley's British fascists, the Blackshirts. Died at the Córdoba Front in 1937.

Sixty years ago next month the first volunteers left Britain to fight the fascist uprising against the democratically elected Spanish government. They joined 40,000 other anti-fascists from 50 countries in forming the International Brigade to combat the troops of General Franco who had rebelled against a reforming government which had begun to work on behalf of the poor. Some 2,400 left British shores, among them individuals from Australia, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Ireland. A large proportion - 526 men and women - never returned. It was an extraordinary demonstration of idealistic commitment perhaps unparalleled in 20th-century history. They were intellectuals and poets shocked by the burning of books by the Nazis. They were ordinary working people committed through the socialist ideology of the labour movement to a notion of international solidarity. They were unemployed veterans of hunger marches, bitterly and deeply critical of the society that had marginalised them. They were Christians outraged by the unprecedented destruction by aerial bombardment of a civilian target, the



Myth and reality: a scene from Ken Loach's Spanish Civil War film 'Land and Freedom' (main picture); left: British members of the International Brigade bound for the front (photograph from Memorials of the Spanish Civil War, Alan Sutton Publishing)

town of Guernica. They were members of the Labour Party angered by the British government's policy of obstructing arms sales to one side. The odd few were adventurers who didn't get further than Paris on the free tickets provided. It was, as the poet Louis MacNeice put it, "a rag bag army". But could it ever happen again? What, if anything, would promote members of our cynical and selfish society to respond today in such a way? Certainly it is hard to predict contemporary Britain might find resonance in the idealistic language of the time. "No Spanish orphan dies who is not mine," was one of the slogans of the volunteers, "quiet men of peace, roused to war" who referred to themselves as "the conscience of Europe". They went knowing the odds, quoting the words of an earlier idealistic gallowglass, Lord Byron:

"They never fail, who die in a good cause." "The fascist bullet that gets me won't kill a Spanish worker," said one, Tommy Patten, as he left Co Mayo. In their ears rang the words of the fiery Communist orator, Dolores Ibarruri, La Pasionaria: "It is better to die on your feet than live on your knees." On their lips was the rallying call of their Spanish companions "¡No Pasarán!" - they shall not pass. Could it happen again? "History doesn't repeat itself," says Bill Alexander, one of those who did return, now aged 86. "The character of modern warfare has changed. Then it was largely men with rifles and machine guns; today it's a small number of highly trained people handling extremely complicated weapons." Moreover, he admits, "if you live in a society where self-interest is always put first, as it has been in recent

years, that is bound to have had an effect on young people."

It is a view echoed by Paul Preston, professor of modern history at the London School of Economics and author of *The Spanish Civil War 1936-39*. "The international context is different. What was happening in Spain had massive international repercussions. Fascism was a European wide movement. So was the front to oppose it. It's difficult to imagine anything that could today excite the imagination or provoke the fears it did. Moreover, the welfare state has undermined the power of the idea of solidarity in people's lives. In the 1930s solidarity was survival. The idea that 'in unity is strength' doesn't wash much in the 1990s after the revolution of individualism."

The shift which turned people from citizens into consumers began some time ago. Bill Alexander and his colleagues discussed the idea of a new International Brigade during the Vietnam war but already its time was past; and, in any case, "because of the climate and conditions Europeans would have been more of a hindrance than a help".

But others disagree. The filmmaker Ken Loach, whose *Land and Freedom* is a moving story of heroism and betrayal set in the Spanish Civil War, sees the same impulse at work in the thousands of volunteers who went out to pick coffee in Nicaragua in the 1980s. "They went out of a sim-

ilar sense of outrage," he says, "because the United States was committing the most appalling atrocities by proxy against a very poor, very small country which was doing no more than trying, in the best interests of its people, to lift itself out of the mess a dictator had left it in."

Picking coffee hardly compares with trench warfare. But Loach is unhappy with suggestions that the trips by members of Nicaraguan solidarity groups were little more than Club Red holidays for lefties. "They weren't asked to bear arms - Nicaragua had an army and it was fighting a guerrilla war which did not need large numbers of people as at the fronts in Spain," he argues. "But many of those who went to Nicaragua stayed in villages in the war zone and let it be known they were there. So if the Contras attacked they risked killing a foreign citizen. That was incredibly brave."

To those, like President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who once suggested European Marxists working in his country should go home and start their revolution there, Loach responds: "The true revolutionary is an internationalist because revolution is indivisible. If it's not immediately on the cards in your own country you go wherever you can and do what you can."

But revolution is out of vogue nowadays. (Loach knows that only too well: when he proposed a film about an industrial dispute to Channel 4 recently he was rebuffed with "strikes aren't sexy any more".) Where

there is dissent it is unlikely to be focused on structures, parties and factions as it was in the Thirties. Today the nearest we come to that is a loose coalition of single-issue groups coming together over roads protests or animal rights.

"We live in a much more fragmented world," says Helen Graham, a historian at Royal Holloway College, author of *Socialism and War*. "The post-industrial, post-modern world needs no large cohesive labour structures because all the other old monolithic structures have gone too. There is once more an underclass but it is much more marginalised and its members are much more isolated. In Spain the rights and wrongs couldn't have been clearer; it was fairly emotionally simple even if it was intellectually complex. There were many fronts in Thirties Europe but only one war - against attempts by dominant elites to put the clock back and disenfranchise ordinary people."

The clarity of that was evident enough in the Thirties to another Scottish miner, Charles Goodfellow, who had served in the trenches of the First World War before going to Spain: "The years in the last war were nothing to this," he said, "but I know I am on the right side this time." But in contemporary history it is there only for the specialist. The former Labour leader and International Brigade supporter Michael Foot sees it today in the former Yugoslavia. "Attacks on Croatia and Bosnia bear a close

resemblance," he insists, as did the "non-intervention" policy which was once again a cloak for refusing to allow one side to arm itself. "The formation of organisations in Britain like the Bosnian Defence Committee paralleled that of the Aid to Spain movement."

But few British volunteers were evident in Bosnia, only the odd mercenary. There was a classic simplicity about Spain. A democratically elected government was overthrown by the army. The battle lines were clear. On one side stood the poor and against them were ranged fascism, big business, the landowners and the church. Bosnia, with its long history of internecine feuding, is altogether more complex.

"You can't say that because we didn't go to fight in Bosnia we are a cynical, dispirited and demoralised society," says Loach. "It's not as simple as that. There's no doubting that working people have become demoralised. Defeat breeds defeat. But people who have been clobbered don't necessarily give up, they regroup in different ways. There is a paradox: there is a sense of demoralisation but when the chips are down people will still say 'No More'. Recently 2,000 young people met in Berlin to support the rebel Mexican Zapatistas in Chiapas. That kind of thing gets no coverage in the press; it's always a counter-culture, but there's nothing to suggest that people aren't still outraged by injustice."

And yet something has changed. The historian AH Halsey, thinking of the Thirties, recalls a vivid contemporary sense of "the inevitable march of history towards the dream". Yet there were two dreams. Communists saw the dictatorship of the proletariat as an inevitability. But fascists thought the same thing too about their thousand-year reichs. The dynamic of those two competing certainties produced a climate today where the world has proclaimed the end of history and sees capitalism as the only inevitability.

There are those, like Loach,

who resist this. "That's the false consciousness we get all the time," he says impatiently. "It's what they want us to believe: that this is the inevitable state of things. But it's blatantly untrue. This sense of inevitability is entirely manipulated. A lot of people are working very hard to preserve global inequality. It's not inevitable; a lot of people are getting up very early every day to make it happen."

Michael Foot also cautions against fatalism. "I don't think international solidarity has disappeared altogether," he says. "There are a lot of people on the left who believe that the claims of international solidarity are still as great as they ever were." Not many, perhaps, but then there were not, relatively speaking, that many who went to fight in Spain. "A lot of people thought that those who went and fought in Spain were a strange bunch," Foot recalls. History has transformed them from that into heroic figures - a process, Loach warns against. Such myth-making only serves to disempower ordinary people in the present. "Part of the trick [by those who control the levers of power], he says, "is to romanticise the past so that the present can't compete."

There was certainly nothing romantic about the journey to Spain as Bill Alexander remembers it. "We didn't see it as helping someone else with their war. It was our war," he insists. Internationalism and solidarity were not empty rhetorical devices. The Germans and Italians in the International Brigade were exiles from fascism in their home countries. "In Britain we'd seen Mosley hoping to follow in the same path as Hitler and Mussolini, all of which deepened our concern and anger. The decision to volunteer didn't arise overnight. It was a process. As the poet C Day Lewis put it at the time: 'We went because our open eyes could see no other way. I think that if young people today felt called to play their part on the side of humanity they would.' It would seem churlish to contradict him."

Is your shoe salesman trying to tell you something?

You need OdorEaters, the only insole that instantly neutralises the cause of foot odour...sweat acid. Clinically proven - most effective insole you can buy.

OdorEaters is the fastest-acting, most powerful odour destroying insole available today - with Triple Protection.

1. New Insta-Fresh neutralises sweaty foot acid on contact to kill odour faster.
2. Super Activated Charcoal keeps killing month after month.
3. Powerful Anti-Bacterial Agent kills odour causing bacteria.

Keeps protecting for months, too.

Scientific laboratory tests prove the OdorEaters insoles destroy more odour...longer...than the competitor's

Extremely hot, sweaty feet?

Get the extra protection of OdorEaters Foot Powder... it dries up 25 times more wetness than talc. Feet feel fresher, drier, cooler all day.

OdorEaters TRIPLE PROTECTION INSOLES



Road rage: it's a virus and it's incurable

Roland Bumper is professor of automobile behaviour studies at Milton Keynes University. To put it another way, he doesn't know much about cars, but he knows a lot about motorists. To put it another way, whenever the media need an expert on road rage or traffic accidents, Roland Bumper is at the other end of a mobile phone. But recently he has been rather busy on research of his own.

"That's right," he told us down the line. "I have been doing some fairly painstaking research into the causes of road rage. Of course, I would much rather be out and about being interviewed about road rage in TV studios, but interest seems to have died down temporarily, so I have been using this enforced idleness to get on with some work. And it's been worth it because I think I have now located the road rage virus."

Heavens above, is road rage caused by a virus? "I believe so. It is perhaps better named mad motorist's disease. In any case, we all

know it is irrational and unprofitable, so you can't seek a logical cause except in scientific terms. And I believe we have now isolated the road rage virus."

Does that mean it is curable? "Sadly, no. We think that the virus is passed on genetically, for a start."

Does that mean it is hereditary? "Yes, but we don't use that term any more. 'Passed on genetically' sounds much more up to date than 'hereditary'. But worse than that, we think the road rage virus, or RRV, has started to develop immunity to all drugs."

But how can it build up resistance to drugs when it hasn't been subjected to any? "Well, don't forget that any drugs that go into the body, for whatever purposes, do act on viruses whose existence we don't even know about."

So drugs we take to cure one condition may have an effect on another condition? "Surely, I have made a study of several athletes who have been taking drugs over the years, and they may not be any



Miles Kington

better athletes, but they sure are proof against influenza - but that's another story. What I want to say in this connection is that we now think the road rage virus or RRV has been mutating into different forms."

Oh my goodness me. You mean, producing new kinds of bad-tempered behaviour? "Yes, indeed. We have so far identified nearly a dozen separate forms of rage which have evolved from road rage. There is larceny, football fury, phone frenzy, airport apathy, cashier crisis, headline hysteria..."

Hold on, hold on there a moment. Let's look at one or two of those. What's headline hysteria?

"Headline hysteria is a condition we have identified which involves sudden rage sparked off by a news item on TV or radio, or even in the paper. It doesn't have to be good news or bad news, just on a certain topic. Michael Howard triggers it off. So does Northern Ireland. So does Princess Diana. So does sport, though mostly this affects women, not men."

Cashier crisis? Is that something that happens in hanks? "Sometimes, though not invariably. A typical occurrence of cashier crisis comes when a position in bank or post office closes just as your place in the queue is getting nearer. Or when a cashier in a supermarket finds one item in your basket unpriced and rings a bell to send for a supervisor who never comes, and then she starts waving the detergent or whatever it is at the next-door cash till and shouting, 'Sheila, how much is the Worldcare Washing Up Liquid this week?' and you start seeing red..."

You noticed that when people are waiting in an airport departure lounge for a delayed flight, or just sitting in an aeroplane awaiting take-off clearance, they very seldom display rage, however annoyed they are?

Well, isn't that because they know that rage will get them nowhere?

"Oh, no, logic has nothing to do with it. If logic was involved, nobody would get enraged at all. But in an airport we reckon it is a potent mix of rage and fear which produces this sullen apathy. Fear of flying, fear of accidents, fear that the pilot may crash the plane on purpose if you get cross with him..."

Hmm. And what about phone frenzy? "Oh, for heaven's sake work it out for yourself!" comes the furious answer. "I've got better things to do than feed information to lazy journalists who can't be bothered to do their own homework! Go and bother someone else! Goodbye!"

And the phone is angrily slammed down.

I've seen the other side: and it stinks

The publication of 'Primary Colours', a thinly concealed novel about the Clintons and their presidential election campaign, caused a publishing sensation in the United States. It has sold well here, too, mainly because it is wittily and elegantly written, but partly because it was anonymous: everyone wanted to know who wrote it. Joe Klein, a 'Newsweek' columnist, was fingered several times as the author, but his denials were believed. Finally, last week, he was trapped by a 'Washington Post' handwriting expert, and admitted he was the author. In today's 'Newsweek' he writes ruefully for the first time about how and why he found himself in a hole, and kept digging. And explains how his own eyes have been opened by the experience...



Here's what I thought was going to happen last January: 'Primary Colours', my anonymous novel, would be a modest success, a titillation for Beltway sorts and a few stray political junkies, but no big deal out in the rest of the country, where real people lead actual lives. I figured I would be a signed no one would believe me. Friends, colleagues and pals would say, "Aw, Joe, it's you. No question. Don't hang noodles on our ears." And with that it would be over: mystery solved. The First Family probably wouldn't be happy about the book, but they're not often thrilled by what I write – and the portrait of Jack and Susan Stanton (Klein's fictional Clintons) seemed balanced to me. But something different happened. My friends believed my initial fibs. I found this fairly unsettling, and a little frightening: what was I in for now? And then a lot of things began to happen very quickly. The book began to fly out of the stores. It became a Very Big Deal. And attention shifted to many other suspects. Henry Kissinger was mentioned. The book was No 1, and there was a movie deal... and none of it was quite real, because I wasn't really experiencing it. I was out covering the Republican campaign, telling my little white lies all along, speculating with friends

about who might have done it, feeling uneasy. A week before the New Hampshire primary, the roof caved in. New York Magazine hired a professor from Vassar College, New York, with a computer program to analyse the styles of the various suspects. It was a pretty good program. But neither the professor nor the magazine called to ask my reaction until they'd already issued a press release. The things said about me in the release, and the accompanying article, were insulting, inaccurate and ridiculous. I was pretty angry about it, but ready to fold. Then I began to receive strong signals that Random House thought the author should remain anonymous. I had made a deal on that basis.

I also, by this time, truly wanted to remain anonymous. If I came forward now, my whole life would be different – the celebrity, the impact on my family, the fact that I'd not just be a New York columnist any more, I'd be that "Anonymous" guy. As James Carville has said, "When you become famous, being famous becomes your profession." I didn't want that. Oh, by the way, all this was taking place in the course of two hours. I felt trapped, stunned. I must have changed my mind a dozen times. But I eventually came out in favour of keeping my commitment to the publisher and my book.

The worst consequences stem from my adamant denials of authorship (I thought nothing less than adamant was going to suffice). Two were especially hard: on camera to my other employer, CBS (and worse, privately, to my friend Dan Rather) – and to David Von Drehle of the Washington Post, who asked

if I'd stake my journalistic credibility on it. I should never have said yes. I didn't think my journalistic credibility was at stake; my commitment as a novelist was. I should have said something clever – diverting.

The last few months have been pretty awful, but, given the book's success, it would be fatuous to complain. Still, I was almost relieved when the Washington Post found an early manuscript with my handwriting on it.

The relief was fleeting. The ensuing maelstrom was unbelievable. Not only the zoological press conference – that was to be expected. But also the endless chattering and bantering and pontificating on the air about what I did.

I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. I kept drinking water, but felt dehydrated. It was, I realised, a pretty typical campaign day for Bill Clinton or Bob Dole. Could I have handled this mind-boggling situation better? Sure. I've said some things I'll probably always regret.

I've also learnt this: what it's like to live as a politician. I did it for a few hours after the New York Magazine story appeared. I did it for a few days last week. And it is impossible. It is impossible to think straight. It is very easy to screw up, and it is unrelenting. But they do it every day, and that is no way for a civilised nation to choose its leaders. Of course, this was one of the themes of Primary Colours – but I was just imagining what it was like on the other side of the press conference. Now that I've lived it, I hope I'll show a little more mercy for the brave, frail fools and heroes who live our public lives. I hope you will, too.

Chopsticks are out against the Big Mac

Paul Valley on Chinese efforts to curb obesity

I was the original fast food – in China at any rate – but the traditional air-fry is giving way to something altogether less healthy. The world's most populous nation is starting to grow fat on a diet of cheeseburgers and doughnuts. Government officials in Peking are out amused.

Chinese authorities at the weekend launched a campaign to get their people to revert to Chinese food when in search of a fast fill. An increase in levels of obesity – as much as 10 per cent of the population of Shanghai is now overweight – has led Communist Party officials to pledge that comparable standards of speed and hygiene would be introduced into indigenous catering outlets in an attempt to fight off the foreign invader.

How wise they are. Consumer goods are the vanguard of the forces of capitalism. Fast food outlets are its shock troops. And it is the burger which is the standard-bearer of Western economic hegemony.

McDonald's bore the colours through the collapsing Berlin Wall. Early Western tourists into Budapest reported that already queues were a quarter of a mile long outside McDonald's there (and at Adidas, too). And even before a collapsing Soviet Union withdrew the subsidy from the Cuban economy I met young malcontents in Havana who swore that they would happily give up their nonpareil of a health and education system in return for the consumerist nirvana of the Sooy Walkman, Michael Jackson T-shirt and an endless supply of quarterpounders.

Now already it seems in the case of China the new markets are succumbing to our old diseases. Good revolutionary ailments like stomach cancer they fear could be ousted by the corollaries of economic imperialism. (Thanks to their diet almost 40 per cent of Americans are now obese; it was only 25 per cent in 1981 – extrapolating from which scientists say it will be 75 per cent by 2050 and, one epidemiological wag predicts, by 2250 every American will be obese.) Meanwhile, the inexorable conquest of the world by the Big Mac continues. Last week McDonald's Corp reported an 11 per cent rise in earnings and said it expects to post record results this year. It earned \$420.4m from its 19,000 restaurants worldwide and another 2,500 outlets are to open this year – a new one every three hours.

No one, it must seem to the Peking authorities, is immune from the virus. Yesterday news came that even their brawniest and best have submitted. Chinese women gymnasts are bypassing the salad bar in the Olympic Village dining tent and heading for the golden arches at the back and loading up with french fries and hamburgers. McDonald's, it transpires, is an official sponsor of the Games. No wonder the chopsticks are out back home.

Mourners at the grave of trade unionism

Universal rights hold the key to workers' protection, not outdated union wrangling

Yesterday was trade unionism's grand heritage day. It was the yearly rally held to commemorate the martyrs of Tolpuddle – the Dorset village from which six farmworkers were transported in 1834 for the sin of forming a union to protect themselves against rapacious farmers. So the brass bands marched in their honour, brotherly banners proudly unfurled.



POLLY TOYNBEE

But how many hearts' cockles does all that stuff warm these days? Not many. Most of Britain's young have no experience of trade unions. The whizz-kids of new industries or the Have-A-Nice-Day workers of the service sector do not even know what a shop steward is. We who are older, however, remember, and the memory is not fond. A blend of Tory propaganda and union reality cooptures up a discontented winter when bodies went unburied while the rest of us were buried under mouldering black sacks of uncollected rubbish.

My own personal brushes with trade unionism left a sour taste. The National Union of Journalists, its commitment to freedom and civil liberty demonstrated by sending a letter of support to Colonel Gaddafi, once arraigned me. The charge sheet read: she continued to handle her husband's copy after he crossed some picket lines. Since I worked in a closed shop newspaper, I stood to lose my job if the union threw me out. In the end they fined me £1,000 and on appeal reduced it to a reprimand.

But in the 10 years since, how have the mighty unions been brought low. Union membership has plummeted.

Those automatic seats for union leaders on quangos have gone. In my own workplace, like so many others, the management refuses to recognise the union at all. Does that make me pleased? No. We have exchanged one tyranny for another. I, along with most others, according to opinion polls, feel deeply uneasy about our status as the country with the fewest employment rights in Europe.

Privately, union leaders also despair, with apocalyptic talk of terminal crisis. The Labour Party may have recovered its political fortunes, but there has been no parallel renaissance of trade unionism. On the contrary, they remain frozen out in the cold.

So where now? For my Tolpuddle anniversary I visited Jack Dromey, National Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. In his office, visitors are offered early grey – new trade unionism, new tea. If anyone can speak for the unions' future role it must be him (he is married to Harriet Harman, front bench health shadow). He is the belated union modernisation, a lonely post almost alone out there with his southerner turned into the storm-forces of

entrenched reaction. He, therefore, is able to decode Blair's calculated statement of support for London Underground's blundering management.

It was a warning shot – to the unions. Pay freezes in the public sector have created a volcano of demand which may erupt on the morrow of a Labour victory. So Blair, Brown and others are making it very clear that the first union to try their nerve can expect a bloody nose. No union tanks on Blair's prime ministerial lawn. So, can the unions renew themselves? Dromey's assessment is withering. Warring old barons predominate, fighting one another over the bones of dwindling membership, dog chewing on dog – the chaotic teachers' unions being the paradigm case.

Everything is against renewal: the decline of unions' power base in heavy industry, the rise of service industries which are notoriously hard to organise, the spirit of individualism and loss of old ideological certainties. The Thatcher reforms have left the unions crippled, (although those who travel on London Underground or use the Royal Mail have felt a sharp kick from their callipers).

Jack Dromey, however, has faith. He has a vision, optimistic maybe, but not unappealing. It is of unions as "the firm and effective friend of the citizen at work". Not bad. A very large number of downsized, insecure, bullied, over-worked and intimidated employees, both the high and low paid, are in need of one of those friends.

But can unions as we know them change enough – and in time? Yes – progressive trade unionists of the Jack Dromey stamp could still influence the culture of management-worker relations. His formula sounds impressively realistic and moderate. "We have to say to our members that they are not going to achieve their dreams of higher pay and status except with more productivity and ending absurd demarcations."

He cites some good examples: at Ford a new deal included training courses in every and any subject for the whole workforce, to improve their skills, to upgrade themselves for promotion or simply for personal fulfillment. Seventy per cent of the workforce at Dagenham stay after shift now and attend courses. Staff turnover has dropped sharply. And a

new local government deal is about to be struck for 15 million workers, tearing down all the old demarcations, offering new flexibility to both employers and workers in exchange for vocational and self-development courses to let people escape dead-end ghetto jobs. The idea is to pursue the long-term interests of employees, not just a year-on-year pay deal.

Those are examples of what forward-looking trade unionism can achieve – but only in the few traditional unionised workplaces. What of the great non-unionised majority? The only hope of better employment protection comes not from trade unions at all but from new universal rights for employees. A fairer balance of power in most workplaces depends less on Jack Dromey or his unions – however progressive – but on Labour's promises on the European social chapter and a minimum wage.

The only chance for trade unionism is for workers to see the new briefcase-carrying friend of Dromey as a professional friend, financial adviser, carrier of a portfolio of opportunities and advice services – a far cry from the factory gate soapboxes of yesteryear.

Tolpuddle, Dorset: the annual rally to commemorate the six 'martyrs' of 1834. But does this have any relevance today? Photograph: Edward Webb



Why I am ashamed to be British

Over several recent issues this country has shown itself to be cowardly, ignorant and duplicitous

I have recently begun to feel ashamed of my country. I cannot recall experiencing such an emotion before. For most people, I assume, that is a pretty rare feeling. If it ever happens at all.

It occurs when other nations or peoples have good cause to rebuke us. When General Dyer opened fire in April 1919 on an unarmed crowd in Amritsar in India and killed 379 of them, many British people were ashamed. AJP Taylor said it was the decisive moment when Indians were alienated from British rule. On the other hand, Neville Chamberlain's agreement with Hitler at Munich in 1938, which sanctioned German occupation of part of Czechoslovakia, was welcomed by the entire British press except one left-wing Sunday paper and the Communist Daily Worker. Feelings of revulsion came later.

So we come to the past three months, a period in which the United Kingdom has shown itself on different occasions to be cowardly, ignorant and duplicitous. It is these incidents coming together which have made me feel defensive when meeting people from neighbouring countries.

The charge of cowardice was implicit in the criticisms made on BBC television 10 days ago by the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton. He was commenting on the decision made by the British authorities suddenly to allow Orangemen to parade through the Catholic section of the Garvaghy Road in Portadown, Co Armagh. I found myself listening to the government of my country being told by another prime minister how, in a democracy, the rule of law must be defended. I could only agree.

Examine the excuse offered by the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir Hugh Annesley: "I had to look at the implications if there was a determined thrust on the police lines. It could have led accidentally or otherwise to loss of life. I was not prepared to risk the loss of a single life for the sake of rerouting that march." Sir Hugh did not sufficiently consider the loss of life that was likely to follow from his decision to give in to pressure. I cannot help thinking, too, that if our fire services were to operate on Sir Hugh's principle, fewer people would be rescued from burning buildings. Sir Hugh put up the white flag. It is as simple as that.



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Then there was the vicious flag-guarding of foreigners during the recent Euro 96 football championship. At a time when there were many Ger-

You can say all is fair in love, war and business... I say it was a vile trade

man visitors here we called them Krauts, we declared football war on them, we constantly referred to their Nazi past and our tabloid newspapers said that we were going to bomb them to bits. We would "Blitz Fritz". If you ask the editors why this hap-

pened, they say it was just a joke, part of our national character to poke fun at foreigners, quite harmless, amusing really, can't you see?

This attitude springs from an invincible ignorance. British is best, because we know no other and because we are unreflective and unquestioning about what we have. Can there now be a Briton who will not feel at least a bit awkward when he or she next encounters somebody from Germany?

Duplicity is the most appropriate description of an incident that punctuated the BSE crisis. We learnt that British beef-rendering companies had knowingly sold contaminated products to France, Germany, Spain and other countries such as Israel. They stepped up their exports immediately after the British government had banned the sale of meat made from cow and sheep for use in cattle feed in the United Kingdom. The rendering companies noticed a loophole in the regulations and took full advantage. Thus in 1989, when already proscribed in this country, British sales overseas of the very meat and bone meal thought to have been the original source of the BSE epidemic actually doubled.

The UK Renderers' Association said that its members "might have" exposed other countries to such feed but that "they have applied whatever legislative controls the government introduced". Our foreign customers were outraged. What could one reply to their criticisms? You can say that all is fair in love and war and in business too; that these were transactions between professionals where the rule of caveat emptor applies; that foreigners would have done it to us. Perhaps. I say it was a vile trade.

These incidents pile up in the final months of a fourth successive Tory government. The Scott report showed that a culture of encouraging British companies to exploit loopholes in trade regulations was sanctioned by our politicians. The same government has just been engaged in its own widely trumpeted "war" on Europe. Thus the Daily Mirror's football parody of Chamberlain's declaration of war had a more recent precedent than 1939. As for Sir Hugh Annesley's white flag, the possibility exists that it was hoisted to please his political masters. Come to think of it, perhaps it is my government I should be ashamed of rather than my country.

Her fourth birthday may well be her last, but she isn't ill



She's poor

In countries like the Gambia, one in four children die before their fifth birthday. The diseases they suffer from differ. But the cause is almost always the same.

Poverty ACTIONAID is working in some of the poorest areas of the world to end this cycle of despair. Helping local communities to provide clean water, education, health, nutrition, food production and a means to generate their own income.

Sponsor a child like Nyara and you'll be helping her, her family and her whole community. A photograph and regular reports keep you in touch. You will receive messages from the child and can write if you wish. By becoming a sponsor you'll make all the difference to the life of a child like Nyara.

Please sponsor a child today.

For more information and details about sponsoring a child, call 0459 597979.

NAME SURNAME ADDRESS POSTCODE

DATE TIME

16599

ACTIONAID

obituaries / gazette

Professor Kirill Zamaraev

Kirill Il'yich Zamaraev, a former President of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC, 1993-95), holder of the Centenary Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (1995) and former Director of the Borskov Institute of Catalysis of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, died in the prime of his brilliant scientific career. News of his passing cast gloom over the 1,500 delegates in the 11th International Congress on Catalysis, from 1 to 7 July, at Baltimore, where he was scheduled to deliver one of the plenary lectures on "Photocatalysis: state of the art and perspectives".

Kirill Zamaraev was an extraordinary individual. Equally adept as a theoretician and experimentalist, he was an exceptionally versatile chemical physicist, who communicated the gifts and insights of his teachers in Moscow (among them Lev Landau and Petr Kapitsa) to a large family of chemists and engineers. Widely read in several languages, he had a finely developed taste for literature, the theatre and ballet; he was a born leader and an astute diplomat who instilled confidence into others and inspired great efforts from his colleagues. He was a life-enhancing soul, whose company and friendship was valued by all who met him.

During the upheavals and changes consequent upon the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Zamaraev played a leading role in the transformation of Russian science and its adoption of the market force economy. In particular, he assisted in the establishment of a network of Federal Research Centres throughout Russia. All this occurred when he held office as President of IUPAC, which itself demanded an extensive and punishing round of worldwide visits to international conferences and workshops, as well as constant liaison with the

TUPAC secretariat in England, at Oxford.

Zamaraev was born in Moscow in 1939, the son of an eminent Soviet chemical engineer. His early interest in science prompted his father to give him a copy of a book on the life and work of Michael Faraday, who became one of his scientific idols. As a teenager he pursued most of his secondary education in Moscow through the medium of English. Later he entered the Mendeleev Institute of Chemical Technology and then the Moscow Physical Technical Institute so as to enhance his already formidable skills as a chemical physicist. In both these universities he was the star student.

For the Soviet equivalent of his PhD (awarded in 1972), he studied initially under Academician Vojvodski (who also died prematurely) at the N.N. Semenov Institute of Chemical Physics in Moscow. His early researches were in the applications of electron spin resonance – a technique invented in the Soviet Union by Zavoisky in the early 1940s – to chemical problems and in the theory and phenomenology of the tunnelling of electrons over large distances. His skills and excellence were such that, in a mere 14 years, he moved through the ranks from junior to senior scientist (and to head one of the laboratories of the prestigious Institute of Chemical Physics of the Soviet Academy) and was elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy – one of the youngest in the Soviet Union – in 1976.

It was in the early 1970s, while sitting with his parents in their apartment in Moscow, that he received a phone call at about 10.30 one night that was to change the course of his career. "This is Nikolai Nikolaevich speaking," said the distinguished voice at the end of the line. Thinking that it was one of his friends playing a prank, Zamaraev answered in

cavalier fashion. But the voice was indeed that of N.N. Semenov, joint winner (with Sir Cyril Hinshelwood) of the 1956 Nobel Prize for Chemistry.

What Semenov required were some rather rudimentary lessons in quantum mechanics, and he had been told by his colleagues that young Zamaraev was the most compelling of teachers. Zamaraev told his parents that night that he would be working through his textbooks and papers until early morning, for he had promised to give the great Semenov some tutorials the following day. Semenov was at that time in a pivotal position in the Soviet scientific effort on the harnessing of solar energy. This was Zamaraev's introduction to photocatalysis, photophysics and photoelectrochemistry, subjects upon which he later became a world authority.

In 1974 to 1975, as part of a US-USSR exchange programme, Zamaraev held a series of visiting professorships at the universities of Cornell, Stanford and Chicago, where his superb fluency in English and the authoritative flair of his scientific understanding were to impress his American hosts. In 1977 he was selected as the heir apparent to Academician Borskov as head of the largest institute of catalysis in the world (employing over a thousand people), set up as part of the Khrushchev experiment, in Akademgorodok, Novosibirsk, in Siberia. He took a large team of bright Moscow chemical physicists with him, thereby broadening the horizons of the already formidable "Borskov" Institute so as to encompass fundamental and applied studies ranging from *ab initio* quantum mechanics to enzymatic chemistry. In 1984 he took over as Director, a post that he held until 1992, when he decided to relinquish some of his administrative duties in favour of the more active pursuit of research.

By 1987 Zamaraev had become a full member of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union, and was in great demand world-wide as a plenary speaker on a host of topics ranging from industrial applications, chemical engineering practices and laboratory "model" studies of catalysis.

When the Royal Society introduced its Kapitza Fellowship Scheme shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Zamaraev was one of the first to be appointed (for six weeks based in the Davy Faraday Laboratories of the Royal Institution, but with visits to the universities of Cambridge and Wales at Cardiff). His group at Novosibirsk had started a col-

laboration, which continued up to the time of his death, with mine at the Royal Institution in 1988, on the catalytic properties of zeolites. Our prime aim was to understand how the catalytic breakdown of certain molecules is influenced by confinement within the pores and cavities of zeolitic solid.

Zamaraev's memorable Centenary Lecture, given in the theatre of the Royal Institution, London, on 25 January 1993, still rings in one's ears. In it he described, *inter alia*, how, at the Borskov Institute they had: (i) sweetened natural gas (i.e. hydrogen sulphide from methane); (ii) harnessed the sun's rays to remove the same gas photocatalytically from naturally contaminated inland seas in Russia; (iii) utilised immobilised enzymatic catalysts to convert natural gas to methyl alcohol; (iv) designed a catalyst to convert methyl alcohol to formaldehyde; (v) devised a means of converting wasteful sulphurous by-products from industrial plants into sulphuric acid; and (vi) set up in Ukraine a thermocatalytic converter which stores solar energy chemically and releases it by ingenious use of catalysis.

All this and more is described in one of his last major articles (published in May, in *Topics in Catalysis*). While in a Moscow hospital in the autumn of 1994, Zamaraev wrote a beautiful booklet that chronicles the achievements of Russian scientists in catalysis from the days of Lomonosov (1711-1765) onwards. It contains a wealth of evocative entries, including the fact that Borodin described the so-called aldol condensation ($2\text{CH}_3\text{CHO} \rightarrow \text{CH}_3\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{CHO}$) in 1872.

When Kirill Zamaraev visited Cambridge in the summer of 1993 with his wife Mila he quoted his beloved Pushkin:

How many and marvellous are the discoveries prepared for us by the spirit of enlightenment, by experiment, the child of error and effort, by genius, the friend of paradox, and by that divine inventor, Chance.

It was as a result of chance that he and I met, at the 8th Congress on Catalysis in Berlin, in July 1984.

John Menzies Thomas

Kirill Il'yich Zamaraev, chemical physicist; born Moscow 20 May 1939; Academician, Soviet Academy of Sciences 1976; Professor of Physical Chemistry, Novosibirsk State University 1977-96; Director, Borskov Institute of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences 1984-92; President, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry 1993-95; died Novosibirsk, Siberia 26 June 1996.

Alan McGilvray

Alan McGilvray was, in a phrase, the John Arlott of Australia. The fact that two of the best-known voices in cricket were rarely in sympathy was an irony concealed from the huge following both men enjoyed in both hemispheres.

McGilvray enjoyed a greater status in Australia than Arlott did in Britain, a fact partly explained by the respective size of the two nations and also by McGilvray's one huge advantage: he had played first-class cricket, which made him much more acceptable to the establishment in both countries and gave him an edge over Arlott, who was sensitive on this point. Indeed, McGilvray was so big

in Australia that when the Packer war was at its height, with the tycoon launching his World Series, backed by Channel Nine, in direct competition with the established game, backed by the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the ABC advertised across the continent: "The Game's not the Same without McGilvray". It was a telling point, too, for many Australians. McGilvray came from a line of shoemakers, originally from Glasgow. He attended Sydney Grammar School, reached the first eleven in his second year and won city fame by scoring 129 not out and taking 7-32 against their deadly rivals Melbourne Grammar.

Such prowess took him into the New South Wales side, where his right-arm medium pace once deprived the great Bill O'Reilly of taking all 10 wickets. He played 20 times for NSW, sometimes as captain; but soon realised that his cricket could not be measured against the likes of Bradman and O'Reilly, and moved into broadcasting in the infant years of television. He served with the Australian army during the Second World War and when cricket re-started he soon became the familiar voice of the game across a country so vast the only daily link was radio. He first came to Britain with Bradman's 1948 Australians

where his measured delivery, absolute accuracy, unobtrusive Australian accent and total impartiality (without ever disguising his sentiments) made him immensely popular with the enormous listening public.

What he was not part of the jolly, public-school ethos of what became *Test Match Special*, he was an ultra-professional, meticulous in his preparation, and he could, from contemporary accounts, be touchy with those he thought might compromise his approach. He did not lack a sense of humour but indulging it came a poor second to giving the listener every morsel of cricket available from the green table before him.

English colleagues, Arlott, E.W. Swanton, Brian Johnston, Don Mosey, Henry Blofeld, accorded him the highest respect, as did all English journalists who had the privilege of sharing a conversation or drink with him. He was always willing with a smile to explain to an inquirer from the intricacies of the Sheffield Shield, or Jack Iverson's grip.

He firmly believed that cricket should maintain its dignity, manners and spirit and was depressed by the impact Packer had upon the game and the attitude of Australian teams, from Ian Chappell's captaincy, towards dress and general conduct. McGilvray conducted

himself impeccably in public and he thought all representatives of Australian cricket should do the same.

He reported more than 200 Test matches and was one of several Australians who missed the famous test against West Indies in Brisbane in 1960; his commentary stints complete, he caught an early plane back to Sydney. He came with every Australian team to England up to 1985 and in 1996 made a special journey to the battlefield of Culloden to see the cairn that marks the grave of Clan Chattan.

It was an ancestor who led the clan's charge on that tragic day in 1746, the first Jacobite to

breach Cumberland's line of infantry, reaching the rear before being cut down himself. The descendant of Alexander MacGilvray of Dunaglas was appointed MBE by George II's descendant in 1974 and received the Order of Australia in 1980. Not long ago Alan McGilvray was heard to say he was looking forward to another exchange of words with Bill O'Reilly.

Derek Hodgson

Alan David McGilvray, broadcaster and cricketer; born Sydney 6 December 1910; MBE 1974; AO 1980; married Gwen Griffith (one son, one daughter); died Sydney 17 July 1996.



McGilvray: dignity in cricket

CASE SUMMARIES

22 July 1996

Stephen Brown & Kennedy, Phillips LJ 18 June 1996.

A letter from the Home Office to a national of an EEA member state, who had been living in the UK and drawing income support, stating that as she was now present in a non-economic capacity and had become a burden on public funds the Secretary of State was not satisfied that she was lawfully resident here under EC law and she should make arrangements to leave the country, had the effect that the recipient was a person who had been "required by the Secretary of State to leave the United Kingdom" for the purposes of reg 21(3)(h) of the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 and was therefore no longer entitled to income support.

Richard Plender QC, Geraldine Clarke (Treasury Solicitor) for the appellants; John Howell QC, Stewart Wright (Child Poverty Action Group) for the respondent; Richard de Mello, Leon Daniel (Powell & Co. Woolwich) for the respondent.

Magistrates

R v Newport Justices, ex p Carey QB Div Ct (Henry LJ and Ewensworth J) 7 June 1996.

Justices were entitled to decline to reopen a case, under s142 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, on the grounds that the applicant had failed to appear, although he had been in court

Houaig

Camden LSC v Marshall; QB Div Ct (Henry LJ and Ewensworth J) 14 June 1996.

The offence created by s 376(1) of the Housing Act 1985, of wilfully failing to comply with a notice requiring the controller of a house in multiple occupation to execute works within a specified time, continued to be committed for so long as the works specified in the notice remained undone, notwithstanding the expiry of the time for commencement or completion of the work.

A. John Williams (Amanda Kelly, Camden) for the council; Julian Knowles (Radcliffe Crossman Block) for the respondent.

Magistrates

R v Newport Justices, ex p Carey QB Div Ct (Henry LJ and Ewensworth J) 7 June 1996.

Justices were entitled to decline to reopen a case, under s142 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, on the grounds that the applicant had failed to appear, although he had been in court

when the trial date was fixed, that civilian witnesses would be inconvenienced, and that the Crown's case was a strong one.

The justices could also have taken into account the applicant's unfettered right of appeal to the Crown Court under s108 of the 1980 Act and that as that appeal would be by way of a rehearing the applicant would not be deprived of a fair trial.

Theodore D. Huckle (Hodson Parsons, Newport) for the applicant.

R v South Ribbleside Magistrates' Court, ex p Cochrane; QB Div Ct (Henry LJ and Ewensworth J) 7 June 1996.

A stipendiary magistrate's discretion to permit a prosecution witness to refresh his memory from a non-contemporaneous statement made to the police, that he had read outside court just prior to giving evidence, was not restricted to circumstances where all four of the criteria laid down by R v Da Silva (1990) 90 Cr App R 233 at 238 were fulfilled. Those criteria were not absolute. It was a mat-

ter of fact and degree in each case as to how the discretion should be exercised.

Kevin Talbot (Norron & Co, Liverpool) for the applicant; Paul C. Reid (Crown Prosecution Service, Preston) for the respondent.

Tachograph

Swain v McCaul; QB Div Ct (Auld LJ, Sachs, Harrison JJ) 5 June 1996.

The owner and driver of private skip hire vehicle, collecting and disposing of waste as a commercial service to customers whose activities generated large quantities of rubbish, were not performing a general service in the public interest so as to fall within the exemption from keeping tachograph records provided by art 4(6) of EEC Regulation 3820/85. The test of whether a service was being performed in the public interest was whether it was one in which the State had marked its interest by prescription and regulation, and whether it was provided by a public body or by private bodies in some measure of controlled competition with each other.

Dominic Dudkowski (Martin C. Dutton, Hoveham) for the appellant.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince, London. Foundation of Clubs for Young People, gave a reception for the London Federation of Clubs for Young People at Buckingham Palace and attends a dinner at Lancaster House, London SW1. Princess Alexandra attends the St Dunstan's Reception at Windsor House, Regent's Park, London NW1. Princess Michael of Kent, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Middlesex, attends the Worshipful Masters and Ladies Reception at Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10am; 1st Battalion Irish Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by the Scots Guards.

Marriages

Mr D. R. Cope

and Ms J. C. Swinburne. The marriage was taken place in London between David Cope and Caroline, elder daughter of Professor Richard and Mrs Monica Swinburne. A service of blessing was held on Friday 19 July at Holy Trinity Church, Kensington, at which Father Pierre Dill, Dean of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Lusaka, Zambia, officiated.

Birthdays

Mr Harry Barnes MP, 60; Dr Sir Reginald Bennett, former MP, 88; Mr Edmund Engeström, Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland, 58; Mr Bryan Forbes, film producer, 70; Sir Patrick Garland, High Court judge, 67; Mr Jimmy Hill, television presenter, 68; General Sir Charles Huxtable, former Commander-in-Chief, UN Land Forces, 65; Mrs Joanna Kennedy, oil engineer, 46; Miss Bonnie Langford, actress, 32; Professor Sir Ronald Mason, chemist, 66; Dr David Quarterly, joint managing director, J. Sainsbury plc, 55; Mr Terence Stamp, actor, 58; Mr Anthony Steen MP, 57; Mrs Alison Willocks, Head of Bedales School, 44.

Anniversaries

Births: Philip I, King of Spain, 1478; Louis-Gabriel Eugene Isabey, painter and lithographer, 1803; The

Reverend William Archibald Spooner

originator of "spoonerisms", 1844; Gus Elen (Ernest Augustus Elen), music-hall artist, 1862; Stephen Vincent Benet, poet and novelist, 1898; Alexander Calder, bent-wire and metal sculptor, 1898; Dethlefs Simon Langham, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1376; George Shaw, naturalist, 1813; Christopher Wilhelm Eckersberg, painter, 1853; John Meade Falkner, novelist, 1853; Florenz Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, 1932; John Dillinger, "Public Enemy No 1", shot dead in an ambush 1934; Harold Larwood, cricketer, 1930. On this day: the English defeated the Scots, led by William Wallace, at the Battle of Falkirk, 1298; the Mormons, moving westwards, reached the site of Salt Lake City, 1847; Federal troops stopped the Confederates at the Battle of Atlanta, 1864; in Britain, bread rationing started, 1946; after six years in exile, the Russian unmanned spacecraft Venera 8 made a soft landing on Venus, 1972; Greece and Turkey agreed to a cease-fire in Cyprus, 1974; the first London performance of the musical show A Chorus Line was staged, 1976; Today is the Feast Day of St John Lloyd, St Joseph of Palestine, St Mary Magdalene, St Philip Evans, St Vandril or Wandregasius.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Catheryn Spence, "Pre-Raphaelite Watercolours and Early British Photography", 2.30pm.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Car leasing

Raycott Leasing Ltd, Allied Domecq plc, TC Harrison Group Ltd v Customs & Excise Comptroller; QBD (Turner J) 10 May 1996.

Exclusion of credit for input tax on cars purchased for business purposes was valid. The UK was entitled to maintain the exclusion in derogation from the EC legislation pending the issue of a new directive laying down what goods might be excluded from credit for input tax. (With effect from 1 Aug 1995, art 7 of the VAT (Input Tax) Order 1992 was amended: the exclusion for the acquisition of cars was not to apply to cars acquired by a leasing business.) Andrew Thornhill QC, Kevin Prosser QC (Ashurst Morris Crisp) for Raycott, Allied Domecq; Stephen Allcock QC, Andrew Hitchcock (Dibb Lupton Broadhead, Sheffield) for Harrison; Stephen Richards, Raymond Hill (Customs & Excise).

Benefits

Secretary of State for Social Security v Remitties & Walker, CA (Sir

CH 11/96/50

Why one-time bellwether ICI has become a bit of an old plodder

Imperial Chemical Industries is not the power it was. At one time it was regarded as the bellwether of British industry and its profits were an important event in the City calendar.

Times change. Even before ICI bowed to Lord Hanson's own brand of persuasiveness and demerged its drugs side it had slipped from its pedestal. The likes of the General Electric Co were seen as more representative of industry and ICI lost some of its corporate fascination.

Its shares have tended to reflect its changed status. And, as expected, they have been overshadowed by Zeneca, its drugs offshoot.

As Zeneca has enjoyed the stock market's addition to drugs - and experienced pulsing rounds of takeover speculation - its shares have romped ahead. ICI's have plodded along and rest warily much closer to their 12-month low than high.

Zeneca was floated off on a one-for-one share basis, ignoring the drug side's cash call at the time of the break-up, its shares are nearly twice the value of ICI. On demerger day three years ago Zeneca was 632p, ICI 608p. The price before the split was 1,244p.

There is not much chance of an upward re-rating on Thursday when ICI produces interim figures. They will be poor.

Two decades ago such a setback would have been taken badly. This time it should not create more than a few ripples, so long as ICI keeps the fall within market expectations.

NatWest Securities is looking for £18m in the second quarter which will leave six-month profits at around £400m, a 22 per cent fall.

The group has already warned of a decline. "With certain important product markets showing a greater than initially expected price and volume weakness, the downturn will in-

evitably be starker than management had first anticipated," says analyst Lucas Herrmann at NatWest.

Profits for the full year are estimated at £830m (against £891m). For next, a recovery to £1.05bn has been pencilled in. Thorn EMI is likely to suffer a similar fate when it demerger next month. Once again the idea is to allow the glamorous side of the business - music - to stand alone, free from the encumbrance of a rather staid rentals division.

There has been continuing speculation an overseas bidder will barge into the comfy divorce proceedings. But it now looks as though the split will not suffer outside interference and the rumoured predators seeking the showbiz operation are content to wait until the decree absolute.

The group is due to produce quarterly figures today although with the break-up so close they are likely to be



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

something of a sideshow. The banking profit season starts on Friday. Lloyds has for years had the distinction of kicking off and even with TSB in tow it

retains its frontal role. The season is likely to produce another bankers' profits feast with Lloyds TSB offering £1.15bn against £1.01bn.

Many banking forecasts have been upgraded. Salomon Brothers looks for figures "on the high side of consensus expectations".

SmithKline Beecham, the drugs giant, has quarterly figures due tomorrow, around £325m against £298m in the popular guess. On Wednesday Lloyds Abbey Life, controlled by Lloyds TSB, should produce interims of £215m (£197.1m).

Reuters, the information group, contributes to the profits round with year's results.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield in last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share.

Other details: 16 nights 12-13 dividend 14-15 16-17 18-19 20-21 22-23 24-25 26-27 28-29 30-31 32-33 34-35 36-37 38-39 40-41 42-43 44-45 46-47 48-49 50-51 52-53 54-55 56-57 58-59 60-61 62-63 64-65 66-67 68-69 70-71 72-73 74-75 76-77 78-79 80-81 82-83 84-85 86-87 88-89 90-91 92-93 94-95 96-97 98-99 100-101 102-103 104-105 106-107 108-109 110-111 112-113 114-115 116-117 118-119 120-121 122-123 124-125 126-127 128-129 130-131 132-133 134-135 136-137 138-139 140-141 142-143 144-145 146-147 148-149 150-151 152-153 154-155 156-157 158-159 160-161 162-163 164-165 166-167 168-169 170-171 172-173 174-175 176-177 178-179 180-181 182-183 184-185 186-187 188-189 190-191 192-193 194-195 196-197 198-199 200-201 202-203 204-205 206-207 208-209 210-211 212-213 214-215 216-217 218-219 220-221 222-223 224-225 226-227 228-229 230-231 232-233 234-235 236-237 238-239 240-241 242-243 244-245 246-247 248-249 250-251 252-253 254-255 256-257 258-259 260-261 262-263 264-265 266-267 268-269 270-271 272-273 274-275 276-277 278-279 280-281 282-283 284-285 286-287 288-289 290-291 292-293 294-295 296-297 298-299 300-301 302-303 304-305 306-307 308-309 310-311 312-313 314-315 316-317 318-319 320-321 322-323 324-325 326-327 328-329 330-331 332-333 334-335 336-337 338-339 340-341 342-343 344-345 346-347 348-349 350-351 352-353 354-355 356-357 358-359 360-361 362-363 364-365 366-367 368-369 370-371 372-373 374-375 376-377 378-379 380-381 382-383 384-385 386-387 388-389 390-391 392-393 394-395 396-397 398-399 400-401 402-403 404-405 406-407 408-409 410-411 412-413 414-415 416-417 418-419 420-421 422-423 424-425 426-427 428-429 430-431 432-433 434-435 436-437 438-439 440-441 442-443 444-445 446-447 448-449 450-451 452-453 454-455 456-457 458-459 460-461 462-463 464-465 466-467 468-469 470-471 472-473 474-475 476-477 478-479 480-481 482-483 484-485 486-487 488-489 490-491 492-493 494-495 496-497 498-499 500-501 502-503 504-505 506-507 508-509 510-511 512-513 514-515 516-517 518-519 520-521 522-523 524-525 526-527 528-529 530-531 532-533 534-535 536-537 538-539 540-541 542-543 544-545 546-547 548-549 550-551 552-553 554-555 556-557 558-559 560-561 562-563 564-565 566-567 568-569 570-571 572-573 574-575 576-577 578-579 580-581 582-583 584-585 586-587 588-589 590-591 592-593 594-595 596-597 598-599 600-601 602-603 604-605 606-607 608-609 610-611 612-613 614-615 616-617 618-619 620-621 622-623 624-625 626-627 628-629 630-631 632-633 634-635 636-637 638-639 640-641 642-643 644-645 646-647 648-649 650-651 652-653 654-655 656-657 658-659 660-661 662-663 664-665 666-667 668-669 670-671 672-673 674-675 676-677 678-679 680-681 682-683 684-685 686-687 688-689 690-691 692-693 694-695 696-697 698-699 700-701 702-703 704-705 706-707 708-709 710-711 712-713 714-715 716-717 718-719 720-721 722-723 724-725 726-727 728-729 730-731 732-733 734-735 736-737 738-739 740-741 742-743 744-745 746-747 748-749 750-751 752-753 754-755 756-757 758-759 760-761 762-763 764-765 766-767 768-769 770-771 772-773 774-775 776-777 778-779 780-781 782-783 784-785 786-787 788-789 790-791 792-793 794-795 796-797 798-799 800-801 802-803 804-805 806-807 808-809 810-811 812-813 814-815 816-817 818-819 820-821 822-823 824-825 826-827 828-829 830-831 832-833 834-835 836-837 838-839 840-841 842-843 844-845 846-847 848-849 850-851 852-853 854-855 856-857 858-859 860-861 862-863 864-865 866-867 868-869 870-871 872-873 874-875 876-877 878-879 880-881 882-883 884-885 886-887 888-889 890-891 892-893 894-895 896-897 898-899 900-901 902-903 904-905 906-907 908-909 910-911 912-913 914-915 916-917 918-919 920-921 922-923 924-925 926-927 928-929 930-931 932-933 934-935 936-937 938-939 940-941 942-943 944-945 946-947 948-949 950-951 952-953 954-955 956-957 958-959 960-961 962-963 964-965 966-967 968-969 970-971 972-973 974-975 976-977 978-979 980-981 982-983 984-985 986-987 988-989 990-991 992-993 994-995 996-997 998-999 1000-1001 1002-1003 1004-1005 1006-1007 1008-1009 1010-1011 1012-1013 1014-1015 1016-1017 1018-1019 1020-1021 1022-1023 1024-1025 1026-1027 1028-1029 1030-1031 1032-1033 1034-1035 1036-1037 1038-1039 1040-1041 1042-1043 1044-1045 1046-1047 1048-1049 1050-1051 1052-1053 1054-1055 1056-1057 1058-1059 1060-1061 1062-1063 1064-1065 1066-1067 1068-1069 1070-1071 1072-1073 1074-1075 1076-1077 1078-1079 1080-1081 1082-1083 1084-1085 1086-1087 1088-1089 1090-1091 1092-1093 1094-1095 1096-1097 1098-1099 1100-1101 1102-1103 1104-1105 1106-1107 1108-1109 1110-1111 1112-1113 1114-1115 1116-1117 1118-1119 1120-1121 1122-1123 1124-1125 1126-1127 1128-1129 1130-1131 1132-1133 1134-1135 1136-1137 1138-1139 1140-1141 1142-1143 1144-1145 1146-1147 1148-1149 1150-1151 1152-1153 1154-1155 1156-1157 1158-1159 1160-1161 1162-1163 1164-1165 1166-1167 1168-1169 1170-1171 1172-1173 1174-1175 1176-1177 1178-1179 1180-1181 1182-1183 1184-1185 1186-1187 1188-1189 1190-1191 1192-1193 1194-1195 1196-1197 1198-1199 1200-1201 1202-1203 1204-1205 1206-1207 1208-1209 1210-1211 1212-1213 1214-1215 1216-1217 1218-1219 1220-1221 1222-1223 1224-1225 1226-1227 1228-1229 1230-1231 1232-1233 1234-1235 1236-1237 1238-1239 1240-1241 1242-1243 1244-1245 1246-1247 1248-1249 1250-1251 1252-1253 1254-1255 1256-1257 1258-1259 1260-1261 1262-1263 1264-1265 1266-1267 1268-1269 1270-1271 1272-1273 1274-1275 1276-1277 1278-1279 1280-1281 1282-1283 1284-1285 1286-1287 1288-1289 1290-1291 1292-1293 1294-1295 1296-1297 1298-1299 1300-1301 1302-1303 1304-1305 1306-1307 1308-1309 1310-1311 1312-1313 1314-1315 1316-1317 1318-1319 1320-1321 1322-1323 1324-1325 1326-1327 1328-1329 1330-1331 1332-1333 1334-1335 1336-1337 1338-1339 1340-1341 1342-1343 1344-1345 1346-1347 1348-1349 1350-1351 1352-1353 1354-1355 1356-1357 1358-1359 1360-1361 1362-1363 1364-1365 1366-1367 1368-1369 1370-1371 1372-1373 1374-1375 1376-1377 1378-1379 1380-1381 1382-1383 1384-1385 1386-1387 1388-1389 1390-1391 1392-1393 1394-1395 1396-1397 1398-1399 1400-1401 1402-1403 1404-1405 1406-1407 1408-1409 1410-1411 1412-1413 1414-1415 1416-1417 1418-1419 1420-1421 1422-1423 1424-1425 1426-1427 1428-1429 1430-1431 1432-1433 1434-1435 1436-1437 1438-1439 1440-1441 1442-1443 1444-1445 1446-1447 1448-1449 1450-1451 1452-1453 1454-1455 1456-1457 1458-1459 1460-1461 1462-1463 1464-1465 1466-1467 1468-1469 1470-1471 1472-1473 1474-1475 1476-1477 1478-1479 1480-1481 1482-1483 1484-1485 1486-1487 1488-1489 1490-1491 1492-1493 1494-1495 1496-1497 1498-1499 1500-1501 1502-1503 1504-1505 1506-1507 1508-1509 1510-1511 1512-1513 1514-1515 1516-1517 1518-1519 1520-1521 1522-1523 1524-1525 1526-1527 1528-1529 1530-1531 1532-1533 1534-1535 1536-1537 1538-1539 1540-1541 1542-1543 1544-1545 1546-1547 1548-1549 1550-1551 1552-1553 1554-1555 1556-1557 1558-1559 1560-1561 1562-1563 1564-1565 1566-1567 1568-1569 1570-1571 1572-1573 1574-1575 1576-1577 1578-1579 1580-1581 1582-1583 1584-1585 1586-1587 1588-1589 1590-1591 1592-1593 1594-1595 1596-1597 1598-1599 1600-1601 1602-1603 1604-1605 1606-1607 1608-1609 1610-1611 1612-1613 1614-1615 1616-1617 1618-1619 1620-1621 1622-1623 1624-1625 1626-1627 1628-1629 1630-1631 1632-1633 1634-1635 1636-1637 1638-1639 1640-1641 1642-1643 1644-1645 1646-1647 1648-1649 1650-1651 1652-1653 1654-1655 1656-1657 1658-1659 1660-1661 1662-1663 1664-1665 1666-1667 1668-1669 1670-1671 1672-1673 1674-1675 1676-1677 1678-1679 1680-1681 1682-1683 1684-1685 1686-1687 1688-1689 1690-1691 1692-1693 1694-1695 1696-1697 1698-1699 1700-1701 1702-1703 1704-1705 1706-1707 1708-1709 1710-1711 1712-1713 1714-1715 1716-1717 1718-1719 1720-1721 1722-1723 1724-1725 1726-1727 1728-1729 1730-1731 1732-1733 1734-1735 1736-1737 1738-1739 1740-1741 1742-1743 1744-1745 1746-1747 1748-1749 1750-1751 1752-1753 1754-1755 1756-1757 1758-1759 1760-1761 1762-1763 1764-1765 1766-1767 1768-1769 1770-1771 1772-1773 1774-1775 1776-1777 1778-1779 1780-1781 1782-1783 1784-1785 1786-1787 1788-1789 1790-1791 1792-1793 1794-1795 1796-1797 1798-1799 1800-1801 1802-1803 1804-1805 1806-1807 1808-1809 1810-1811 1812-1813 1814-1815 1816-1817 1818-1819 1820-1821 1822-1823 1824-1825 1826-1827 1828-1829 1830-1831 1832-1833 1834-1835 1836-1837 1838-1839 1840-1841 1842-1843 1844-1845 1846-1847 1848-1849 1850-1851 1852-1853 1854-1855 1856-1857 1858-1859 1860-1861 1862-1863 1864-1865 1866-1867 1868-1869 1870-1871 1872-1873 1874-1875 1876-1877 1878-1879 1880-1881 1882-1883 1884-1885 1886-1887 1888-1889 1890-1891 1892-1893 1894-1895 1896-1897 1898-1899 1900-1901 1902-1903 1904-1905 1906-1907 1908-1909 1910-1911 1912-1913 1914-1915 1916-1917 1918-1919 1920-1921 1922-1923 1924-1925 1926-1927 1928-1929 1930-1931 1932-1933 1934-1935 1936-1937 1938-1939 1940-1941 1942-1943 1944-1945 1946-1947 1948-1949 1950-1951 1952-1953 1954-1955 1956-1957 1958-1959 1960-1961 1962-1963 1964-1965 1966-1967 1968-1969 1970-1971 1972-1973 1974-1975 1976-1977 1978-1979 1980-1981 1982-1983 1984-1985 1986-1987 1988-1989 1990-1991 1992-1993 1994-1995 1996-1997 1998-1999 2000-2001 2002-2003 2004-2005 2006-2007 2008-2009 2010-2011 2012-2013 2014-2015 2016-2017 2018-2019 2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029 2030-2031 2032-2033 2034-2035 2036-2037 2038-2039 2040-2041 2042-2043 2044-2045 2046-2047 2048-2049 2050-2051 2052-2053 2054-2055 2056-2057 2058-2059 2060-2061 2062-2063 2064-2065 2066-2067 2068-2069 2070-2071 2072-2073 2074-2075 2076-2077 2078-2079 2080-2081 2082-2083 2084-2085 2086-2087 2088-2089 2090-2091 2092-2093 2094-2095 2096-2097 2098-2099 2100-2101 2102-2103 2104-2105 2106-2107 2108-2109 2110-2111 2112-2113 2114-2115 2116-2117 2118-2119 2120-2121 2122-2123 2124-2125 2126-2127 2128-2129 2130-2131 2132-2133 2134-2135 2136-2137 2138-2139 2140-2141 2142-2143 2144-2145 2146-2147 2148-2149 2150-2151 2152-2153 2154-2155 2156-2157 2158-2159 2160-2161 2162-2163 2164-2165 2166-2167 2168-2169 2170-2171 2172-2173 2174-2175 2176-2177 2178-2179 2180-2181 2182-2183 2184-2185 2186-2187 2188-2189 2190-2191 2192-2193 2194-2195 2196-2197 2198-2199 2200-2201 2202-2203 2204-2205 2206-2207 2208-2209 2210-2211 2212-2213 2214-2215 2216-2217 2218-2219 2220-2221 2222-2223 2224-2225 2226-2227 2228-2229 2230-2231 2232-2233 2234-2235 2236-2237 2238-2239 2240-2241 2242-2243 2244-2245 2246-2247 2248-2249 2250-2251 2252-2253 2254-2255 2256-2257 2258-2259 2260-2261 2262-2263 2264-2265 2266-2267 2268-2269 2270-2271 2272-2273 2274-2275 2276-2277 2278-2279 2280-2281 2282-2283 2284-2285 2286-2287 2288-2289 2290-2291 2292-2293 2294-2295 2296-2297 2298-2299 2300-2301 2302-2303 2304-2305 2306-2307 2308-2309 2310-2311 2312-2313 2314-2315 2316-2317 2318-2319 2320-2321 2322-2323 2324-2325 2326-2327 2328-

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

DEPUTY CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

BSkyB in talks with OFT on cable programming deal

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, is locked in late-stage negotiations with the Office of Fair Trading over the terms of its supply of pay-television programming to the cable industry.

The talks, aimed at avoiding a monopoly reference, follow a six-month inquiry by the OFT into BSkyB's dominant position in the subscription television

market, and could lead to formal undertakings on the terms and conditions of its trading relationship with cable operators.

BSkyB, owned 40 per cent by Rupert Murdoch, is also under scrutiny from the European Commission, which warned in a letter sent late last month that its special contracts with two leading cable operators, Telewest Communications and Nynex CableComms, contra-

vened EC competition law. The contracts, which have already been the subject of negotiations with the OFT, give the two cable operators long-term guaranteed supply of BSkyB programming.

In return, they originally agreed not to compete with BSkyB in the market for pay-per-view film and sport programming, in effect ending efforts by cable companies to launch new services. These

clauses were deemed anti-competitive by the OFT, but modifications have yet to be agreed. In its formal letter, edited copies of which have been circulated to cable operators, Brussels has asked BSkyB to confirm it intends to modify the contracts.

It is also understood that John Bridgeman, the director-general of the OFT, has asked the Restrictive Practices Court to accelerate its investigation into BSkyB's contracts with the Premier League, which give the broadcaster exclusive rights to live matches.

The developments are likely to deepen market concerns about the regulatory risks facing BSkyB, the UK's most profitable broadcaster. Analysis said late last week, however, that minimum undertakings agreed with the OFT would not necessarily weaken BSkyB's competitive position.

Three cheers: Reprieve for tied-house system eases fears of chaos that followed Beer Orders

Brewers poised to win EU stay of execution

JOHN SHEPHERD
Business News Editor

Britain's tied-house system operated by the brewers is poised to win a two-year stay of execution from the European Union. The EU's decision will relieve fears that it would severely curtail, and perhaps even dismantle, the 160-year-old system that has enabled the brewers to have complete control over the beers that their pubs can sell.

The industry has barely recovered from the huge and controversial upheaval caused by the 1989 Beer Orders that forced the top-flight brewers to sell more than 11,000 pubs. Any similar directive handed down by Brussels now would, in the eyes of many analysts, have caused unnecessary disruption and damage to an industry recovering from the recession but still struggling against the tide of bootlegged booze from across the Channel.

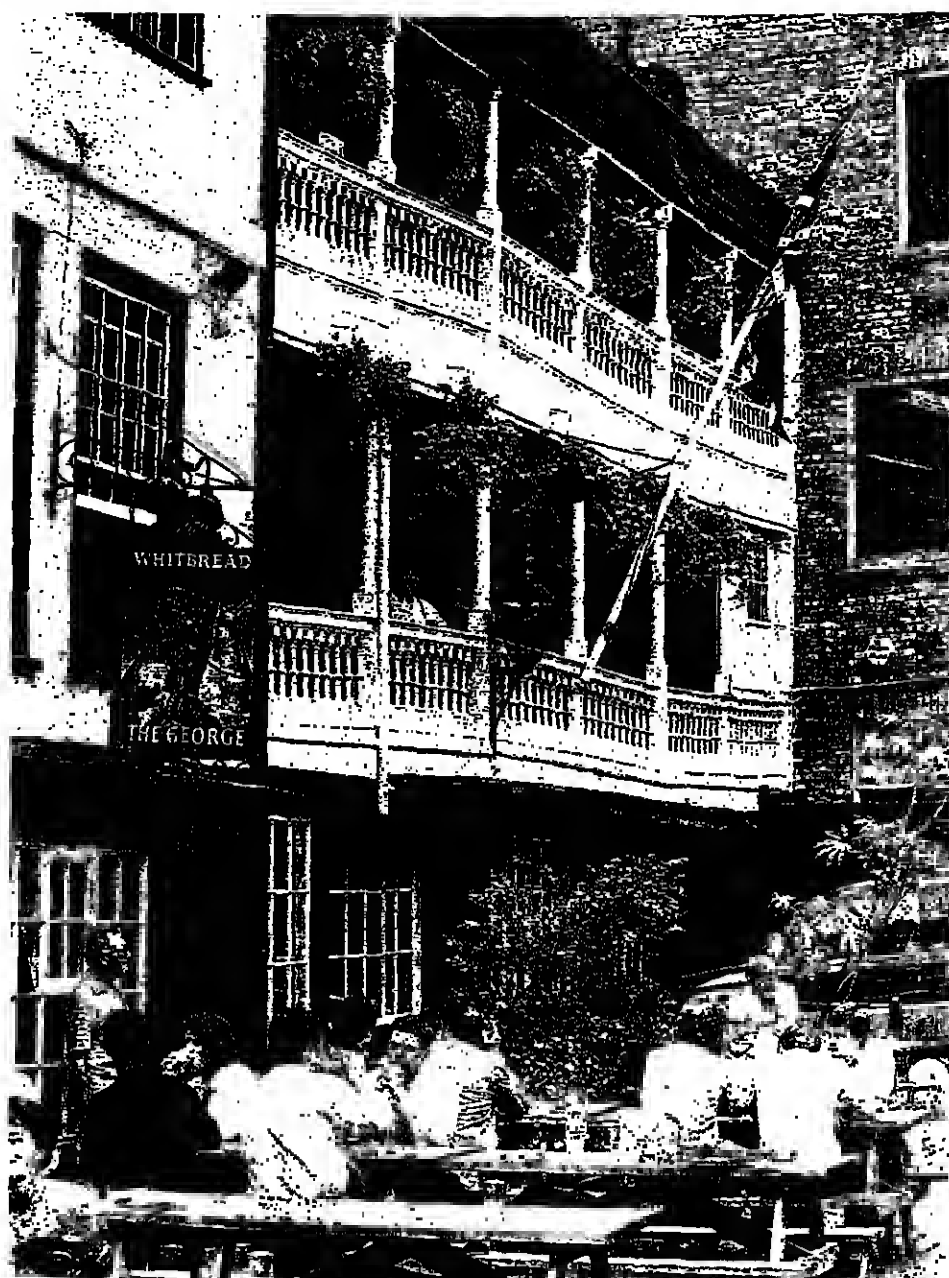
Karel van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, is understood to be close to finalising plans that will defer the review due next year of the industry's exemption from anti-competitive laws under Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. According to a Brussels source, the EU, which has yet to publish its long-awaited green paper on all tied manufacturing and retail operations from petrol to bread, will retain the status quo for Britain's brewers until 1999.

The reprieve, which sources said could be announced very soon, would follow extensive lobbying by MPs, Euro MPs, and the brewers, headed by Bass, Whitbread, Allied Domecq and Scottish & Newcastle, the industry number one. Late last month, Mr Van Miert made a flying visit to Britain to address the North West Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association at a meeting hosted by Gary Tiley, Euro MP for Bolton.

At the meeting, which was also attended by David Kay of Thwaites brewery and held at the Jolly Carter pub in Bolton, run by Rees Gibbon, Mr Van Miert signalled his intentions about the industry by saying that he was considering modifying the system rather than instigating a thorough shake-up. That was particularly welcome news for small brewers, which feared collapse if they were forced to part company with their pubs.

Questioned about the "modifications", an industry source said yesterday that Mr Van Miert might introduce an appeals system for landlords to challenge their beer tie with brewers.

An appeal, the source said, would have to demonstrate that the tie restricted trade, and was anti-competitive in nature. Such a system would be welcome for the hundreds of publicans of the Independent Pub Company, which is jointly owned by Grand Metropolitan and Fosters of Australia. Many of them have challenged - both through UK courts and the EU - the terms of 20-year Independent leases that require them to buy beer from Courage - now owned by S&N - at full list prices despite a price war between the top brewers.



Cheered: Brewers have welcomed the extra time for pubs Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Free houses are still able to obtain big discounts of up to £70 a 36-gallon barrel of beer, and the same is true for the new pub companies that were formed in the wake of the forced sale of 11,000 pubs between 1989 and 1992.

Many of the pub groups, from Greenalls which abandoned brewing in the late 1980s to fledgling companies like Century Inns, have used purchasing muscle to extract financially favourable beer supply agreements from brewers for up to seven-year terms.

It is understood that Mr Van Miert has recognised that the tied-house system's dominance of the beer market is not as strong as it used to be and continues to decline. Fresh research by analysts at SBC Warburg shows that the market control exerted by the brewers in the few years since the Beer Orders took effect has weakened considerably.

SBC Warburg says that in 1989 some 52 per cent of the on-trade outlets were tied, and accounted for 43 per cent of total beer consumption. It now estimates that only 38 per cent of on-trade outlets are tied and account for only 27 per cent of beer sales, and predicts by 2000 that the respective figures will be 30 and 20 per cent.

HMSO bidders likely to halve value of sale

NIC CIGUTTI

The planned sell-off of HMSO, the Government's publishing and stationery arm, expected to be announced this week, could be thrown into jeopardy at the last minute by bidders determined to renegotiate their offers for the business.

Each of the three remaining bidders is understood to want to discuss a number of issues with the Government. The final price is likely to be less than half the £100m the Government originally hoped to raise from the sale.

One key unresolved issue is whether the financial information made available to bidders will justify the offers made for the business once a closer investigation is carried out.

"There are some people who may say that everything is rosy in the garden in order to persuade the vendor that they are very positive about running the business," a source said. "But there are still many points that are unresolved."

The three potential buyers left in the race to buy the publisher of official documents are Westminster Information Systems, backed by NatWest Ventures and Rank Xerox, Fleming Electra and a consortium including 3i, the venture capital company and Mercury Asset Management.

Civil servants advising Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, are believed to be close to reaching a decision on the winner of the bid. Mr Freeman is expected to announce the result later this week.

However a source close to one bidder said yesterday that despite a scaling down of offers from £100m to between £50m and £70m, following a warning that HMSO's profits this year will not be as high as expected,

attempts to re-negotiate further are likely.

"Although all three are still keen on the business, there is still a lot of talking to do even after an announcement is made," the source said. "After the new profits forecast, HMSO is not as attractive as it was and there are still some things to iron out."

Another bidder said: "I think it is fair to say that the financial information coming out of HMSO is quite poor. One of the issues will be to review the figures and see whether the bid made is supported by the financial evidence."

Binder Hamlyn, investigating accountants acting for the Government, are reviewing current financial information and preparing a report to be made available to successful bidders.

HMSO is the Government agency responsible for a range of publishing activities, including Hansard, passports and welfare benefits books.

Government estimates suggest it is likely to make profits of between £7 and £8m this year. This follows losses of £42m last year, £28m due to redundancy payments.

After the Government's announcement in September last year that it intended to privatise HMSO, the business was formally advertised in March with a shortlist of four organisations drawn up two months ago.

One, led by Hamhros, dropped out recently.

Fear of embarrassing failures to deliver passports or benefits books, together with potential criticisms of poor service to MPs, have led civil servants overseeing the tender process to tread warily.

All bidders have given assurances that the services they provide will be of a high standard.

CINMan purchase boosts Goldman

JOHN WILLCOCK

The 18-month quest for a buyer for CINMan, British Coal's £15.6bn pension fund manager, ended yesterday when US investment bank Goldman Sachs agreed to buy the company. Goldman did not name a figure, but it is understood that the price was £40m-£50m.

The deal promotes Goldman into the ranks of the world's top 25 money managers, with \$85bn under management.

Fund management companies have been at a premium, particularly in London, since investment banks realised that fund management was vital in smoothing volatile earnings from their traditional securities and corporate finance activities.

Goldman refused to say how much it had paid for CINMan. British Coal's attempts to wind down its activities since the

sale of its mining business in 1994 have been hit by crises at CINMan. First there was a well-publicised row between British Coal and the pension fund's trustees, which was followed by the withdrawal of front-runner Friends Provident.

It had offered £70m but failed to agree terms. Subsequent efforts to re-open negotiations with Dutch insurance group Robeco, second in the queue, were short-lived.

For Goldman the acquisition is an attempt to catch up with its "hulge bracket" rivals, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch. Peter Sutherland, chairman and managing director of Goldman Sachs International, said: "We look forward to a long and successful relationship with the two Coal pension schemes."

Analysts said Goldman had until now concentrated on the low-margin business of short-term money market funds.

Foreign investment lifts regions

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Investment by foreign firms is helping manufacturing industry in some regions escape the weak national trend.

Scotland, Wales, the East Midlands and Northern Ireland have escaped the recession afflicting manufacturing since late last year. All have enjoyed above-average foreign investment, according to a report published today by consultancy Business Strategies.

"Manufacturing industry is having a poor year at the national level, with a forecast growth rate of only 0.5 per cent, but it is very noticeable that all of the regions where manufacturing output appears to be buoyant are those which have all received substantial amounts of foreign direct investment," said Neil Blake, research director.

The survey found the regions struggling most during the current industrial downturn are

the North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, suffering from excess levels of stocks and a downturn in export markets. The three all have lower-than-average foreign investment.

The one exception to the rule is the North, which has high inward investment, but has been held back by depressed metals and chemicals industries.

However, the report says regional differences are not as sharp as they once were. Dr

Blake said: "Despite big variations in regional performance of manufacturing industry, the differences in overall economic growth rates will not be as great as we would once have expected. The weakness of manufacturing industry is being masked by strengthening consumer spending, and a greater spread of service industry locations means that the benefits will be seen more widely than in the 1980s."

The consultancy shares Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's optimism about consumer spending next year. It forecasts a pick-up of 4.2 per cent following 3 per cent spending growth this year.

Services and consumer-related industries remain concentrated in London and the South-east, which means they will enjoy the fastest overall GDP growth, at 3.7 and 3.4 per cent, respectively next year.

Devon measures quality of life

Citizens in one part of Britain are challenging the assumption that economic activity is the best guide to quality of life, writes Diane Coyle.

The West Devon Environmental Network today launches a project to measure well-being using a mixture of conventional economic statistics and environmental indicators. The group claims it is the first such

project to be run by local people for themselves.

The measures used, piloted by Judith Matthews, an academic at the University of Plymouth, will range from unemployment to the incidence of asthma, water quality and damsel fly numbers.

The West Devon initiative is part of a trend that has started to filter through to more con-

ventional assessments. Two new publications compare counties on the basis of environmental and quality of life indicators.

The United Nations Human Development Report and a survey from the OECD include indicators ranging from inequality and unemployment to crime rates and greenhouse gas emissions.

Network

The I.T. marketplace for the latest news in computing and telecommunications with pages of career opportunities in these expanding industries.

See Network the 16 page special I.T. pullout in section two

To book your advertisement call The Network Team on 0171 293 2312

Every Monday in the THE INDEPENDENT section two

STOCK MARKETS									
FT-SE 100									
Index	Close	Week's Chg	Change (%)	1995 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)			
FTSE 100	3710.50	-17.8	-0.5	3657.10	3632.30	4.08			
FTSE 250	4250.00	-66.5	-1.5	4568.60	4015.30	3.54			
FTSE 350	1860.00	-13.4	-0.7	1945.40	1816.60	3.97			
FT Small Cap	2106.65	-11.1	-0.5	2244.36	1954.06	3.13			
FT All Share	1841.45	-15.0	-0.8	1924.17	1791.55	3.90			
New York	5426.82	-83.7	-1.5	5778.00	5032.84	2.28			
Tokyo	21476.29	-180.2	-0.8	22666.80	19734.70	0.741			
Hong Kong	10845.30	+42.6	+0.4	11594.99	10204.87	3.481			
Frankfurt	2520.19	+24.1	+0.9	2583.49	2253.36	1.861			

INTEREST RATES									
UK Interest Rates									
Instrument	Rate	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Bank of England	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
UK Govt	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US Interest Rates	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US Govt	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
US Corp	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50

CURRENCIES									
£/\$									
Index	Close	Week's Chg	Change (%)	1995 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)			
£/\$	1.5474	-0.49	-3.1	1.5645	1.5450	0.639			
£/¥	1.5480	-0.50	-3.2	1.5650	1.5450	0.639			
£/DM	2.3032	-0.03	-1.3	2.425	2.1885	1.55			
£/A\$	1.9747	-0.04	-2.0	2.009	1.885	99.77			
£/S\$	84.7	-1.7	-2.0	88.5	82.2	96.1			

MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Rises - Top 5									
Eurotunnel Plc	108.5	8.5	8.5	108.5	108.5	8.5	108.5	108.5	8.5
British Airways	184	10	5.7	184	184	10	184	184	5.7
Christies Int	222	12	5.7	222	222	12	222	222	5.7
Falls - Top 5									
British Airways	111	39	35.1	111	111	39	111	111	35.1
Daily Mail Group	1330	135	9.2	1330	1330	135	1330	1330	9.2
First Art Develop	455	46	9.2	455	455	46	455	455	9.2

OTHER INDICATORS									
Oil Brent \$									
Oil Brent \$	19.22	-0.78	-4.0	19.70	15.70	15.70	19.70	15.70	15.70
Gold \$	384.35	-0.20	-0.1	385.90	385.90	385.90	385.90	385.90	385.90
Gold £	248.38	+0.65	+0.3	242.65	242.65	242.65	242.65	242.65	242.65



GAVYN DAVIES

'From 1993 to 1996, real GDP in the US has grown by 10.2 per cent, while that in core Europe (Germany and France, which have essentially followed a common monetary policy) has grown by 4 per cent. Over that period, America has created more than 9 million jobs, while the EU has shed over 2 million'

What the Bundesbank can learn from the Fed

Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, tells a story in which a computer is asked to choose the governor of the future European Central Bank. The computer has no doubt - it should be Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve in Washington. He alone, says the computer, has the required experience of running monetary policy in a large currency area, consisting of many different states, joined together in political union.

Apart from giving some insight into how the Bundesbank views the link between monetary and political integration, this story is interesting because it encapsulates a feeling becoming widespread in Europe - that we have a lot to learn from the way in which monetary policy has recently been conducted in the US. This is a novel view, for most of the post-war period, the world has looked to the Bundesbank, not to the Federal Reserve, for guidance on how to run monetary policy.

Yet recent evidence in favour of the Fed has become compelling. From 1993 to 1996, real GDP in the US has grown by 10.2 per cent, while that in core Europe (Germany and France, which have essentially followed a common monetary policy) has grown by 4 per cent. Over that period, America has created more than 9 million jobs, while the EU has shed over 2 million.

On the other side of the ledger is the inflation performance of the two areas. In the US, inflation has remained stuck at just under 3 per cent throughout the period, while in core Europe inflation has fallen from 3.5 per cent

in 1993 to 2 per cent now. So the European countries have enjoyed a relative improvement of around 1.5 per cent in inflation, but this has come at the expense of a cumulative loss of output over four years of over 6 per cent. Clearly, there are many in Europe who are beginning to wonder whether this was really worthwhile.

In France, for example, President Chirac complained strongly last week about the stance of monetary policy, saying that interest rates were "clearly too high". By tradition, the federal government in Germany does not openly criticise the Bundesbank, but it would be surprising if the same sentiments were not being expressed in private in Frankfurt. Essentially, Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac have started to focus on the political hell of yet again trying to cut public spending sufficiently to hit the Maastricht targets on budget deficits next year.

This has been made immeasurably more difficult by last winter's mini-recession in Continental Europe, which still appears to be dragging on. Not only are the politicians

beginning to feel that they are running up a descending escalator - with the central bankers controlling the speed of descent - but it is also beginning to dawn on them the whole EMU project is becoming associated in the political consciousness with recession and budget cutbacks. And it has also dawned, belatedly perhaps, that monetary policy offers them a route out of this impasse.

The central bankers in Continental Europe would no doubt reply that inflation was substantially above their 2 per cent objective a couple of years ago, so they had to keep monetary policy tight to retain credibility. There might be some truth in this. They would also point out that real short-term interest rates have been below their historical average since the middle of 1993, so it is hardly fair to accuse them of imposing a draconian monetary squeeze. But it is disingenuous to claim that the overall stance of monetary conditions in the EU can be summarised simply by the level of short rates. In fact, the central bankers themselves have

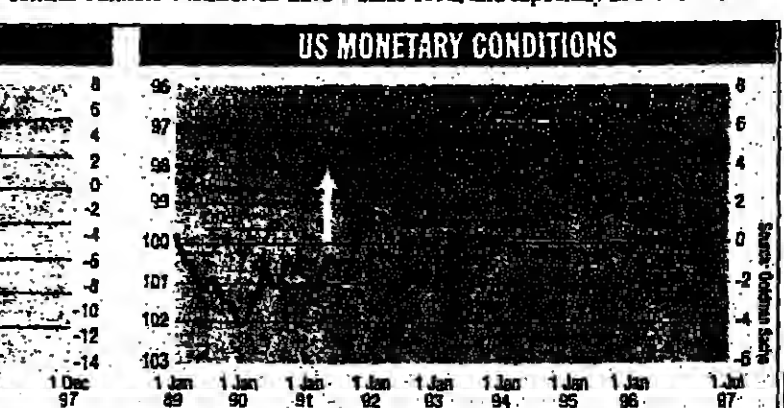
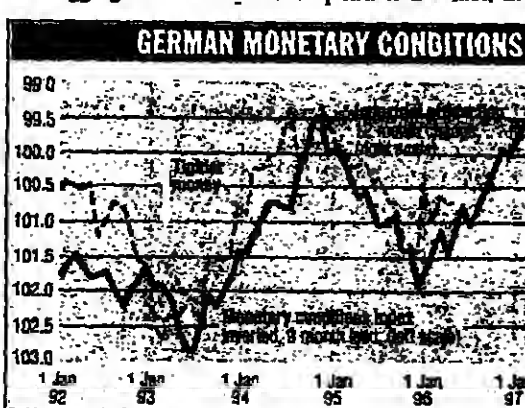
often been in the lead in pointing out that long bond yields are at least as important as short rates in determining monetary conditions, and many economists would wish to add the exchange rate into the mix as well.

Central bankers are not wholly in control of bond yields or the exchange rate. But nor are these factors totally outside their control, and their behaviour must be taken into account when setting short rates. One way of doing this is to devise a weighted index of overall monetary conditions, with the weights being determined by the impact of each of the different monetary inputs on GDP growth. John Simpson of Goldman Sachs has recently done this for all of the main industrial countries, and the results for the US and Germany are shown in the graphs. (Note that the index of monetary conditions is plotted with a lead of nine months to show what it implies for the future growth of industrial production.) It is interesting to observe the sharp contrast between the US and Germany throughout the period since 1992, and especially in 1995. Whereas

overall monetary conditions in the US have been persistently supportive of economic growth, there has only been a short period where this has been the case in Germany (or in France, for that matter). It is not difficult, in this context, to explain why a mini-recession developed in the EU last year, or indeed to explain why the slowdown in the US was nothing like as severe as it was in Europe - the difference is fully picked up by the behaviour of the monetary conditions index.

The two factors that drove European monetary conditions towards tightness in 1995 were the rise in the mark against the dollar, and the earlier increase in bond yields, which was more savage in the EU than the US. Although it is often said by policy-makers that the drop in European activity last year was hard to explain, and indicative of a deeper rooted problem of cost competitiveness, this is not supported by these data. It looks suspiciously as if there was just an old-fashioned policy mistake, with the central bankers failing to cut short rates sufficiently to offset the restrictive effects of rising bond yields and an appreciating exchange rate.

This error, if such it was, seems to have been largely eliminated, and the monetary index implies the policy stance is already expansionary enough in Europe to ensure a solid recovery in output over the balance of this year. But the central bankers cannot afford to take this for granted. The renewed rise in the mark last week, and in bond yields this year, are reminders that the authorities need to keep short rates low, or drop them further, to prevent a re-run of the unintended tightening of 1994/95. There is little doubt that, if Mr Greenspan were governor of a European central bank, he would do just that. Perhaps the Bundesbank will do the same at its meeting on Thursday.



Head of Courtaulds talks to Tom Stevenson

Confessions of a company 'lifer'

Shortly after it was announced that Gordon Campbell was to succeed Sipko Huismans at the top of Courtaulds, he received a call from Harvard University. They were running a two-day course on how to be a chief executive - would he like to enrol? To the amusement of his colleagues - who thought two days was far too long to learn all he would need to know - Mr Campbell signed up right away.

Following in the inimitable footsteps of his larger-than-life predecessor, he was humble enough to admit he could probably do with all the tips he could pick up. The lesson he learnt was not what he expected at all, but a useful one for someone planning the future of a multinational corporation, employing 17,000 staff in 43 countries.

"What I came away with was the overwhelming realisation that my American counterparts were completely driven by the material rewards of their jobs in a way that we in Britain don't approach. We spent most of the two days talking about remuneration."

That he was surprised says a lot about Courtaulds' new chief executive, a self-confessed 'lifer' with the chemicals and fibres giant and the antithesis of the flash American corporate big-shot. You do not get to be boss of a company the size of Courtaulds by just being a nice bloke, but the abiding impression given by Mr Campbell is of

a chap you wouldn't mind playing 18 holes and having a couple of pints with. His new-found American friends would think him a regular kind of guy, but might question whether he was driven enough to count as one of them.

Get him out on that golf course, however, and it would not take long to understand how the junior production manager, fresh from his Cambridge chemical engineering degree in 1968, came to rise to the top of the only company he has ever worked for while still (just) in his forties. How's his golf? "Pretty good, actually. I played off six when I was at school. I don't really play now, but last week, entertaining some Japan-

an underperforming share price. There is plenty of hard work to do if the company's undoubted technical excellence and innovation is to be converted into tangible results.

In those circumstances, it is not surprising that there are some who believe Courtaulds might have been better served by an outside appointment. "It is possible to argue it both ways but ultimately I will be judged on my performance. I don't think, however, that you should expect any dramatic change in strategy. I've been on the board since 1987 and if I didn't agree with the strategy, then we should have changed it or I should have departed," says Mr Campbell.

That strategy remains to focus on Courtaulds' three core businesses - coatings and sealants, where it leads the world in marine and yacht paints, polymer products, such as packaging and high tech polyester fibres, and chemicals and fibres, including Tencel, a new lightweight manmade fibre that has taken Japan and America by storm.

Tucked away in a troubled division that was clobbered last year by wildly fluctuating raw material prices and a demand roller-coaster, it is easy to forget that Tencel is a genuine success story. Based on research carried out in the UK, first commercial production in the US and the development of an initial market in Japan, the new so-called "wonder fibre" has shown that Courtaulds can still produce exciting new products and sell them around the world.

Mr Campbell admits that the biggest challenge is to increase Courtaulds' exposure to the Far East where a target of 25 per cent of group sales by the year 2000 has been set. Managing the move away from a US/Europe based business to a genuine world player, and bringing on the local management to run that global business, will be how Mr Campbell is judged. He knows that, but also knows the limits to what one man can achieve. "What I have to do is create a style for management that allows people to make their maximum contribution. That means creating the right atmosphere and encouraging everyone I come into contact with to operate that way. If people don't agree with what we are doing they should feel confident enough to speak out."

Will it make a measurable difference? "I am certain we will turn the corner this year. I see signs of it happening but we said all along it would be September before there was a significant improvement in performance. But we do have to deliver a very sharp improvement."

He concludes: "Overall, we have to find the trick of growing the whole of the group, not just some of it, and eliminating other parts. That means everybody must perform, because there is no point holding on to businesses that don't. It looks like the golf will have to wait."



Showing his fibre: Gordon Campbell is determined to lift sales to the Far East
Photograph: Sally Soames

Why directors need to go back to school

ROGER TRAPP

Company directors have been in the news mainly over their "fat cat" salaries. But this is of far less importance than the "performing" side to their duties, according to a new book.

This does not refer to their prowess on stage. Rather, it means their ability to do the job. One of the paradoxes of management is that while it is universally accepted that training is needed throughout the organisation below board level, few dare suggest it should apply to directors. Consequently, training courses for directors are

few and far between. In the view of Bob Garratt, author of *The Fish Rots from the Head* (HarperCollins, £18), this weakness must be remedied.

"Worryingly, under present institutional and legal structures, it is only in a crisis that directors might, much too late, become aware of what is required of them," he writes. An international consultant on director development and strategic thinking, he believes that not preparing directors adequately for their role lets them carry on doing what they were before - managing.

You might think that being a

director is a reward for being an effective manager and requires little more than supervising the person who has taken on those responsibilities. But Mr Garratt sees a distinction between the hands-on business of managing and the more intellectual activity of directing.

The latter demands a broader approach and the ability to stand back from day-to-day tasks to concentrate on such issues as policy formulation, strategic thinking, management supervision and accountability. The board's job, he writes, is to keep striking balances between internal and external pressures

on the organisation to ensure its survival. This entails giving a clear direction to the business and creating the climate in which others can align and attain themselves to that.

It is because many business people have spent their careers doing rather than thinking that they find this aspect of being a director daunting. He might add that this could also account for their susceptibility to the services of management consultants.

In the book - whose title stems from a Chinese proverb of dubious provenance - he sets out how this can be countered

through developing directors in much the same way as their subordinates have been in recent years. But all is not lost. Mr Garratt is confident that, by following certain guidelines and learning processes, individual directors and boards as a whole can reach required levels of competence.

Companies are reluctant to send directors on courses because that might suggest they consider themselves incompetent. But Mr Garratt claims that courses run by organisations like the Institute of Directors are attracting interest from some companies.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Marketing

Franchises

GOVERNMENT AUCTIONS

For the wholesale public disposal of goods from the official departments of:

HM Customs and Excise
The Home Office
The Police, County Courts
The Ministry of Defence
The Official Receiver
HM Collector of Taxes
Transport Lost Property
Public Utilities

Nationwide coverage of over 1,000 no-reserve price auctions every month.

From the total asset sales of companies in receivership to the offer for purchase of stolen and recovered possessions, from the auction of confiscated contraband to large-scale M&A new and used replacement sales, from the clearance of transport department and airport unclaimed effects and post office undeliverable parcels to the disposal of local authority and utility vehicles, property and land. Not restricted to dealers and traders. Open to all members of the public. A publication featured by BBC Television and Radio. The Independent, Business and Assets, and referred by the DTI, DoE, HMSO, HM Customs & Excise and The Small Business Advice Centre.

Item Sold	Resale Price	At Auction	Item Sold	Resale Price	At Auction
VW Golf GTI	£1,000	£1,200	30 Wedding Dress	£1,200	£1,500
Mini Cooper	£800	£1,000	Porsche 928	£2,000	£2,500
Chrysler Car	£400	£500	An Office Desk	£500	£600
Plasma TV 1000 Cx-CD	£200	£250	Dishwasher	£200	£250
Chevy Fishing Tackle	£100	£120	100 Computer Games	£300	£350
Photographic Equipment	£500	£600	Japan XJS Car	£16,000	£18,000
Computer Design System	£4,000	£4,500	16-inch Mobile Phone	£100	£120
Racing Bike	£1,000	£1,200	700	£500	£600
Garden Shed	£100	£120	At Auction	£2,000	£2,500
NEC Office Phone System	£200	£250	At Auction	£500	£600
Cave of Wine	£200	£250	Large Chest	£200	£250
Six Glasses	£1,000	£1,200	Hand On Piping	£200	£250
Large Printer	£500	£600	Designer Canteen	£200	£250
Two Carfax Drills	£200	£250	Zenith Washing Machine	£200	£250
Toyota F1000 Truck	£17,000	£19,000	Two Pairs of Shoes	£200	£250
Stacy Camcorder	£200	£250	Plasma TV 1000 Cx-CD	£200	£250
A Set of Golf Clubs	£200	£250	Collector's Record	£200	£250

Special Promotion with this Coupon - Save £20
As an introduction to Government Auctions take advantage of a £20 discount. Register today and claim £20 monthly bonus for only £20. (usual price £20). Supply complete and return the registration application below without delay. Summary thirty day refund guarantee of customer satisfaction.

REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Send me Government Auction News every month for 12 months. I wish to take advantage of the special promotional discount.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Post Code _____

To: Government Auction News
Freepost SE 8446, Roundford RM6 5BR

Official Use ONLY
REGISTRATION NO. _____

DATE _____

Signature _____

©1996 Registered in the British Library, ISSN 0950-1944, Approved for Distribution GPO 1995, Registered Publishers Ltd, 17 Fleet St, London EC4A 3DF, UK.

Opportunities

Dove
TRAVEL
Start your own Travel business
Get a wide range of travel services including
flights from your own home office. FTY or
FTB. All your enquiries handled directly
by your own personal travel agent.
Exclusive profit potential. All fully
backed. Licence fee £1495 + VAT.

MANUFACTURERS
If you are seeking
assistance to establish
AGENTS & DISTRIBUTORS
IN EUROPE
please contact
Tel: 0181 560 4205
Fax: 0181 560 1109



Turn this... into this.

Comprehensive franchise package
Full training and structured support
Quality products with excellent brand image
National advertising and marketing support

Total package \$9,900 + VAT

For full details contact:

Master Brew Ltd.
The Complete Beverage Service

Tastebuds

Free restaurant listing and booking service.

We have 1800 restaurants offering 13 different kinds of cuisine on our database with prices. We can even book your table for you, all you have to do is arrive at your chosen restaurant and simply enjoy your meal. Upon arrival, mention to the manager that you were recommended by TASTEBUDS who will send you a complimentary bottle of wine within 28 days if not before.

Call us 24 hour live service
FREE on 0500 353 354

Opportunities

WHY?

WHY ARE THEY ALL RE-MORTGAGING?
WHY ARE THEY PAYING LESS?
WHY ARE THEY NOW BETTER OFF?
WHY? WHY? WHY?

Why don't you increase the cash in your pocket
Phone 0181 422 3159

CASH FLOW OPPORTUNITY

Highly Profitable One Person Operation
No Selling
45 Hours Per Week
Full Training
Full Training Given
Excellent After Sales Service

INTERDATA
2nd Floor, Windsor House
95 St. James's Street, SW1
For Free Information
Pack FREECALL
0500 827 853

See you at the top!

Of all the businesses you're likely to consider, few are as exciting and challenging as this. The business of international travel offers you more opportunities for success than almost any other.

For a full information pack, contact: **FCI (UK) Limited**, 2nd Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF. Tel: 020 7478 1000. Fax: 020 7478 1001. Email: fci@fciltd.co.uk

Get the facts!

For a full information pack, contact: **FCI (UK) Limited**, 2nd Floor, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0JF. Tel: 020 7478 1000. Fax: 020 7478 1001. Email: fci@fciltd.co.uk

F.I.O.O.R. COVERINGS

FCI (UK) Limited.
High Quality Homes.
Sandwich Way, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS22 7DN.
Can be reached on
0800 23 88 77

NOTICE TO READERS

Whilst we take reasonable precautions with all advertisements, readers are strongly advised to take professional advice before paying a deposit or entering into any financial commitment.

To advertise in this section please call
David Owen on 0171 293 2938

SCIENCE

Things are looking up for pickled eggs

Acetic acid gives us vinegar and videos. And now it's easier to make than ever, says John Emsley

Iridium, one of the rarest metals, is set to transform a large part of the chemical industry, thanks to a group of British chemists based at Hull. They have discovered that an iridium catalyst can boost production of acetic acid by around 30 per cent. This is the acid used to make wallpaper, paint, curtains, carpets, clothes and nail varnish. It is also an essential ingredient in pickled onions, chutney, tomato ketchup and salt and vinegar crisps.

World production of acetic acid exceeds 5 million tons a year, and by the end of this decade two-thirds of it will be made using the new catalyst which was launched by BP Chemicals in June. Called

vinager, it was once used as a household cleaner.

Although cooks have been adding vinegar to foods for thousands of years, acetic acid solution is regarded as a chemical additive and consequently has been assigned an E-number (E260). There is no difference between the two forms of the acid, which is why the BP variety finds its way into pickles, chutneys, cheeses, salad cream, brown sauces, mint jelly, and horseradish cream.

An early method of making acetic acid was to heat wood chippings. The liquid distilled was mainly a solution of acetic acid. Today, most companies make it from methanol, made from the mixture of carbon monoxide and hydrogen gas produced by reacting natural gas with steam. When methanol is mixed with more carbon monoxide it forms acetic acid - given the right catalyst.

Chemists at Monsanto, the US chemical company, discovered the first such catalyst, based on rhodium iodide, which BP has used until now. The new catalyst is the work of Mark Howard, John Cook and Derrick Watson, who found that iridium acetate worked even better. Both rhodium and iridium belong to the so-called platinum group of metals, all of which are rare. Rhodium is five times rarer than gold, but iridium is 300 times rarer, yet much cheaper.

But iridium acetate alone is not enough. "We have devised a new system that depends on promoter molecules to activate the iridium catalyst to work efficiently, and with them we get a quicker reaction with fewer side products," claims John Atkinson, BP's process technology manager. For the time being, the company is keeping these promoter molecules secret.

The largest single use of industrial acetic acid is to make vinyl acetate monomer, used in paints, adhesives, textile treatments and paper coatings. Another major use is making polyester which is turned into fibres, polyethylene bottles, audio and video tapes. Acetic acid is also needed for viscose and rayon yarns, for printing inks and for over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin and ibuprofen. Other products include vitamins A and C, washing powders, jeans, leather goods, photographic film and filter tips.

Dr John Emsley is science writer in residence at Imperial College, London.

Molecule of the Month

Cativa, it is already in operation at the company's Texas City plant, where output has increased by 80,000 tonnes a year. There are also plans to introduce the new technology at BP's other plants around the world, including Humberside, where it was discovered.

Acetic acid, also known as ethanoic acid, is a small molecule that humans have been manufacturing for thousands of years, from the time we began making fermented drinks. When the bacterium *Acetobacter* gets into these drinks, it turns the alcohol into acetic acid, making it sour (hence the vinegar, from *vin* - Old French for sour wine) and undrinkable, but not unusable.

Food pickled in vinegar can be preserved for months, and so alcoholic liquors were deliberately converted to wine, cider and malt vinegars. Acetic acid acts as a preservative partly due to its acidity, but mainly because it inhibits spoilage organisms, particularly yeasts and bacteria, in solutions as weak as 0.1 per cent. Acetic acid is used in bread-making to prevent the spores of *Bacillus mesentericus* from germinating, causing the bread to go rupy.

Pure acetic acid is a colourless liquid that boils at 118°C, but is not as corrosive as other pure acids. So has been used to remove warts. Normally, we would only encounter acetic acid as a 5 per cent solution in water, the same strength as vinegar-like



At five, children learn to think more deviously, understanding so-called 'false beliefs'. Brain activity sparked by this process shows as yellow in PET scans, right

Brian Harris

Mindreader? Yes, you are

Guessing other people's thoughts is an essential human skill. And now we know which part of the brain gives us this 'theory of mind'. Sanjida O'Connell reports

Every time we venture out on the road, we stake our lives on our ability to read minds, a skill we take for granted. Having a 'theory of mind', as this ability is known, is nothing to do with telepathy but refers to our ability to understand that other people have thoughts, beliefs and desires.

Whether driving or waiting to walk across a road, we rely on our general expectations about the normal desires and decisions of other motorists.

Daniel Dennett, a philosopher from Tufts University, Boston, gives another example of how we continuously and unconsciously use theory of mind: "... watching a film with a highly original and unsterilized plot, we see the hero smile at the villain and we all swiftly and effortlessly arrive at the same diagnosis: 'Aha! we conclude (but perhaps not consciously). He wants her to think he doesn't know she intends to defraud her brother!'"

Every normal person over the age of five can demonstrate a theory of mind. And although it was only discovered just over a decade ago, there is now scientific evidence indicating exactly which part of the brain computes what other people are thinking.

The litmus test of having a theory of mind is whether you can understand that someone else believes something to be true when it is, in fact, false. Dr Heinz Wimmer and Dr Josef Perner, from the University of Salzburg in Austria, were the first psychologists to prove that children under the age of four to five cannot understand these so-called 'false beliefs'.

They devised a task known as the Sally-Anne test. Children were told a story about two dolls, Sally and Anne. Sally has a basket and Anne has a box. Sally places her marble in her basket and goes out. While she is out, naughty Anne moves Sally's marble from the basket

to her box, then she leaves the room. Sally comes back in.

The children were asked where Sally would look for her marble. Adults know that Sally will look for it in her basket. She has a false belief about the marble's location. Children younger than four or five (the exact age varies) give the wrong answer: they point to the box, where the marble really is.

This understanding of false beliefs opens the gates to a full comprehension of other people. It is a skill understood the world over. It can be demonstrated among preliterate people living an ancient hunter-gatherer lifestyle, such as the Baka pygmies of the rainforests of south-eastern Cameroon. Dr Jeremy Ains and Dr Paul Harris from Oxford University have demonstrated that an ability to write is not necessary to an understanding of beliefs and desires, by performing a version of the Sally-Anne test involving mangoes in cooking pots. Again, only children over the age of five could get these questions right. "The fact that belief-desire reasoning emerges at approximately the same age in such diverse settings strengthens the claim that this mode of reasoning is a universal feature of normal human development," says Dr Ains.

Although the ability to understand a false belief happens relatively suddenly for a child, there is a definite developmental progression leading up to it. It starts with one-year-old infants, who begin to follow the direction of another person's gaze when they look at objects. About six months later, they look where someone is pointing, rather than at their finger. This is the first step

towards understanding that what their parents are looking at is what they are mentally paying attention to.

Later, children develop a growing awareness that seeing leads to knowing - in other words, if you are looking in a cupboard, you know far more about its contents than someone who is standing next to it but not looking inside. Between three and four, children start to understand that other people have desires and wishes, until finally they comprehend false beliefs.

The exact age at which a child can perform a theory-of-mind task is determined by how many siblings there are in the family, and how extensive the child's vocabulary is: the larger the family and the more words a child knows, the earlier the age

at which they can pass the test.

Until two recent studies no one could say which area of the brain was used in this process. In one experiment, a team led by Dr Paul Fletcher and Professor Chris Frith of the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology in London gave brain scans to volunteers who were listening to stories that either required a physical understanding of the world (understanding, for example, that if you knock a person, they may fall) and ones that needed a mental understanding, such as the Sally-Anne task. They used the PET scan, in which a subject is given a dose of radioactive oxygen in water. When a particular part of the brain is especially active, it uses more oxygen. The radioactivity shows up in the

scan, which can be coloured to show levels of activity. Both types of stories showed increased brain activity in the temporal lobes, the superior temporal lobe and the posterior cingulate cortex. But only the theory of mind tasks activated an area at the front of the brain known as Brodmann's 8, on the frontal lobe.

The other study, conducted slightly earlier than Fletcher and Frith's, also involved giving PET scans to students while they listened to a theory-of-mind task. Dr Vinod Goel, Dr Jordan Grafman and colleagues at Bethesda, in the US, asked students how Christopher Columbus might have categorised the function of artefacts he discovered on his travels: they had to assume

what kind of knowledge a European in the 15th century might have - a rather bizarre version of the Sally-Anne task. All the subjects also used the same part of the frontal lobe.

Brodmann's 8 has widespread connections to the rest of the brain. Professor Frith believes that the part of the brain associated with theory of mind may be needed to integrate information and stimuli drawn from other parts of the brain.

The work is highly important, not only in furthering our own understanding of the mind, but for people with autism. Sufferers of the disorder do not have a theory of mind, so are unable to deal with people socially or communicate effectively. Finding out whether this area of the brain is damaged in people with autism could help us to understand and treat autism, which at present is an incurable disorder.

Sanjida O'Connell's first novel, *Theory of Mind*, is published this month by Black Swan, £6.99.

SPEAK A FOREIGN LANGUAGE? SPEAK IT BETTER.

If you've invested the time to learn a foreign language, you've acquired a valuable asset - an asset that can pay substantial dividends in today's global marketplace. The problem is, how do you continue to improve your second language after you leave school, finish the course, or move back to an English-speaking country?

Now you can continue your language study with *Champs-Elysees*, *Schau ins Land*, *Puerta del Sol*, and *Acquerello italiano*, internationally acclaimed audiomagazines for intermediate and advanced students of French, German, Spanish, and Italian. Each consists of an hour-long programme on audiocassette, accompanied by a printed transcript with an extensive vocabulary section. Optional study supplements, priced separately, include innovative listening exercises and grammar reviews.

Because they're periodicals, they give you a means of honing your language skills month in and month out, at your own pace, for as long as you like. That's something traditional courses can't offer.

And the unique radio-magazine format is as entertaining as it is instructive.

Produced in Europe by professional broadcasters and journalists - all native speakers - each audiomagazine unlocks the door to a fascinating language and culture. There are news reports, interviews with interesting and influential people, and features on a wide range of topics, including current affairs, business, the arts, cuisine, and travel. With each new edition, you'll build your vocabulary, improve your listening comprehension, and increase your "cultural IQ," as though you were living abroad.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE: Take 30 days to examine your first edition. If it's not for you, just let us know, and we'll refund your money. You have nothing to lose. So why not find out for yourself what thousands of business people, educators, diplomats, and professionals on six continents are raving about.

Subscribe today!

YES, Please rush me my first audiomagazine!

Champs-Elysees (French): ☐ 5 monthly editions (£55) ☐ Study supplement (£15) ☐ 11 monthly editions (£99) ☐ Study supplement (£33)
 Schau ins Land (German): ☐ 5 monthly editions (£55) ☐ Study supplement (£15) ☐ 11 monthly editions (£99) ☐ Study supplement (£33)
 Acquerello italiano (Italian): ☐ 6 bimonthly editions (£60) ☐ Study supplement (£18)
 Puerta del Sol (Spanish): ☐ 6 bimonthly editions (£60) ☐ Study supplement (£18)

Price is inclusive of P&P.

Name _____
 Address _____

☐ Cheque enclosed ☐ Please debit my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Eurocard ☐ Switch ☐ Diners

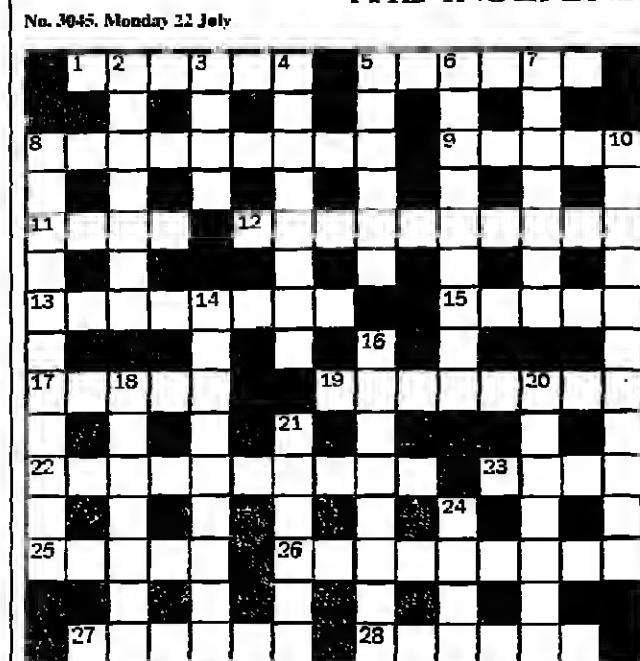
Card no. _____ Expiry _____ Signed _____

For faster service, order with your credit card via telephone: 0800 833 257 or FAX to 0171 738 0707 • In the U.S. call 1 800 824 0829

POST TO: CHAMPS-ELYSEES, DEPT. 104, FREEPOST, LONDON (LN 295) SW11 1YY

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

By Purvis



ACROSS
 1 Sounds like a trial witness (6)
 5 Point of order (6)
 8 International player's receiving attention modestly (3,2,4)
 9 Third rate poet is passable (5)
 11 Wood's non-starter for structural support (4)
 12 Nick copper item of spurious value (10)

DOWN
 2 Local current (7)
 3 Sea-bird found in another nest (4)
 4 Rush out to get hooligan (8)
 5 Gather many join key Italian leader (6)
 6 Welcome social function (4)
 7 Making a scene about left's purge (7)
 8 Study programme that makes an impact? 5 9 6 1
 10 Tiny learns one version of game (5,6)
 14 Note Verdi opera includes new American artist (9)
 16 Be successful as a traveller (206)
 18 Eight let loose in Turkey get more drunk (7)
 20 Aiming to reproduce oriental picture (7)
 21 Isn't just a French objective (6)
 24 Insulation units in gear (4)